



## *Friedens Church of Washington, UCC*

*"A Country Church with a New Spirit"  
Open Doors and Open Hearts*

Grace to you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ,

I am excited about Vacation Bible School this year as we will again be teaming up with some local Lutheran congregations to provide a wonderful experience for our kids. Joining with others allows us to work with a great group of kids while enjoying the support of more folks. I encourage you to get involved!

I will soon be at the annual meeting of the South Central Conference. This year, the theme is "Go Global" and I look forward to learning more about the global mission work our denomination is doing. The United Church of Christ partners with the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) for all of our global mission work.

As far as my leaving Friedens, I have confidence in God that our Lord will guide you through this transition period. The purpose of the upcoming interim time is to enable you, the members, to separate from me, your pastor of the last eight years. Be open to that interim time so you will then be ready to accept and welcome a new minister with the kind of excitement you showed when you welcomed me. Nothing will give me greater joy than to know that you are continuing your wonderful ministry in this place. However, for our separation to happen—as tempting as it might be to make an exception—I want you to understand that I cannot and will not officiate at any weddings, or funerals, or baptisms.

There are often times in our lives when we are faced with unexpected events and uncertainty, but I have learned that it is exactly at these times that offer the greatest chance of renewal and new growth. Never doubt in the power of God to bring hope in these moments. I pray that you will be comforted by the presence of God, sustained by the grace of Jesus Christ, and encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Ron

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Dear members and friends of Friedens Church of Washington

Our congregation's traditional practice of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirit-led discernment process. Thus our church enters into a covenant with a new pastor always knowing that God may sometimes call that pastor to a new ministry setting.

In the days that have elapsed since Rev. Ron Trimmer submitted his resignation letter, we have been keenly aware of God's new calling for him even as we have experienced a profound sense of loss. It is not easy to think about ending a Spirit-filled eight year ministry. These next two months together will be a precious time, and we will inform you soon about our plans for special events to celebrate Ron's ministry.

The council recognizes that there are members of the congregation that have concerns about policies of UCC. The Council is mindful that the pastor selected (interim and permanent) must minister to *all* members of the congregation.

We met with our Conference minister, Rev. Douglas Anders on Tuesday, May 19 and he informed us about UCC procedures during a time of pastoral transition. He suggested that we share with you this brief overview:

- 1. We will select an interim pastor to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care, and program/staff oversight. Candidates from other denominations will be considered along with candidates from the UCC. Rev. Anders has assured us that regardless of the candidates faith, the facilities of the UCC will be available. This pastor will not be a candidate for the "settled" position.*
- 2. After the interim pastor is in place, we will initiate a search process for a new pastor in accordance with our bylaws. We will invite all of you to be part of a self-study that will identify our church's pastoral needs. And we will develop a church profile for our potential candidates.*
- 3. Our Conference office will advertise our vacancy among UCC clergy all across the country. Additionally, we will aggressively seek candidates from other denominations. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.*

We send this letter so you will know that we are taking steps to think about our future. We will keep you informed on a regular basis. For now, let us express our gratitude to God for Ron's ministry and enter into a time of celebration with him and his family. Please keep them in your prayers even as you know from experience that he will be praying for us.

In Christ's name,

The Church Council

### **Car Wash June 28 after worship**

The Youth will be sponsoring a car wash on Sunday, June 28 immediately following the worship service. A free-will offering will be collected to help raise funds for their youth activities.

### **Youth Sponsors Needed**

We'd like to get some more folks to act as youth sponsors for the kids, especially during the summer in Tyler's absence. We thank Sheri Finke for her help, but we'd like to see more folks get involved in this wonderful and important ministry. We really have a lot of fun with the kids! Please let someone on council know if you are interested. Thanks!

### **Thanks!**

- Thanks to all those who donated school kit bags!
- Thanks to Charles Buck for disconnecting the old attic fans and for purchasing new ones at the parsonage!
- Thanks to Jan Trimmer for typing in Harlan's Grocery receipts for the UCC Women which totaled \$9,755.16! The UCC Women get a donation of 1% or \$97.55. Thanks Jan and thanks Harlan's Grocery Store!
- Thanks to all who helped get rid of our bees and prepare for our new roof!

### **Slumber Falls Camp**

Registration has started for Slumber Falls Camp. Remember,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the registration fee is provided by the UCC Women, Women's Fellowship, and Sunday School. We want to help as many kids get to camp as possible! And it's so much fun! Thanks to those groups for their generous support to help the wonderful outdoor ministry at Slumber Falls!

### **Interested in Preserving Friedens History? Like Treasure Hunts?**

The council would like a few folks with a passion for preserving our rich history and heritage (and also those with good organization skills) to help locate and organize some of our old publications and records: council and congregational meeting minutes, annual reports, old newsletters. This will be an adventure as we try and find these things, which are located in a variety of places around our church. The hunt may even take us to someone's home, like Ella Mae Borgstedte's, who has old newsletters from the 1930s! We need some folks to work with Joy to find and organize such information. Please let someone on council know if you are interested. Thanks!

### **Youth Class suspended for the Summer**

The Youth Class will take the summer off and resume in the fall when confirmation begins.

## Brazos Association News

On Saturday, April 26, United Christian Church hosted our Association Spring Meeting. We were blessed by the presence of Rev Tom Neilsen of Floresville (outside San Antonio), who shared with us about the mission trips he has led over several years partnering with a church group working in Alegria, El Salvador to build homes and other facilities. Tom shared with us that the relationships built between the people there and the US people visiting, even more than the physical work, are at the heart of the experience there, leading to profound insights and change in our Christian discipleship. Tom was the pastor for many years of Swiss United Church of Christ in the Wisconsin Conference, and led a partnership there between the conference and the El Salvador ministry. He is seeking to lead our conference toward a similar partnership. Folks from several other Association churches shared about their mission work, including the St. John's Burton trip to Chiapas, the United Christian trip to Ecuador (through Global Ministries of the UCC/Disciples of Christ), Friends Congregational's hosting of homeless people through Family Promise, and the joint Disciples/UCC summer mission trip for the Austin area churches. (I may have left someone out. Let me know if I have and I will put yours in next time so we can share our work and ideas.) In addition, Tom Vandestadt told us about the current work of Back Bay Mission, Charles Stark shared about opportunities at Slumber Falls camp, and I told people how to connect with the UCC hurricane rebuilding work in New Orleans along with other rebuilding opportunities near Galveston. Thanks to United Christian for providing a great welcome and dinner!

We have news, too, about a new church start and a church in transition. Rev. Ron Trimmer has resigned as pastor of Friedens UCC in Washington. His new call is to be the pastor of a UCC/Disciples new church start in Georgetown. Ron's last Sunday in Washington will be July 12. Our prayers are with the Trimmer family as they go in faith on this exciting and risky adventure in discipleship, and our prayers are with Friedens as they say farewell to the Trimmers and begin an interim period. This will be the third new church start in our Association, joining with St. Thomas who is now a Community in Connection with our conference (the first designated step in becoming a new church start), and Creative Spirit. For those of you who are still receiving the Strengthen the Church offerings, remember that half of this offering stays in the conference for the vital work these new churches are doing. Our prayers are with them!

Finally, thanks go to Cheryl von Ehrenkrook of Ft. Worth, who just led an outstanding workshop on "Dealing with Difficult Members" at St. John's Burton for our licensed and ordained ministers. Cheryl is a certified conflict resolution specialist, an attorney who served as an Air Force JAG lawyer, and a graduate of Brite Divinity School.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the South Central Conference Annual Meeting at Huston-Tillotson University on June 5-7 and at the Mission Education Event at United Christian on June 5.

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Brazos Association Minister

*Friedens Church of Washington, UCC*

**Prayer list:**

Keep these in your prayers: Hospitalized since last newsletter: Elaine Warmke, Dorothy Wellmann, Prayer concerns for: Betty Dickschat, Frankie Dickschat, Walter Bush, Clifford James, Erdine Lauter; also Charles Ketchum, Lynden Acton, Jordan Brown, Dolly Krause, --

**Newsletter:**

Information for the newsletters needs to be in the office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Thanks!!

**Sympathy:**

Sympathy to the family of Walter "Louie" Dickschat, "Louie" passed away on May 8<sup>th</sup> and services were held at Friedens on May 11, 2009.

**VBS**

Friedens will be joining several other churches for a fun-filled "Son Rock-Kids Camp" at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wiedeville June 8-12, 5:30 – 8:30 pm.

**Blood Drive:**

The Blood Drive will be June 14<sup>th</sup> at Friedens Fellowship Hall. Time 9 am – 12:30 pm.

Thanks to Denise Stolz and LaNell Langford for the Web Work.

Thank you to Keith Schlabach and Bobbie Oberhoff for Securing a Bunn Coffeemake for the Activity Center.

**Song Leader Schedule**

Thanks to all our song leaders! We've heard many good things about our song leaders, who have done so much to help our worship!

Here is the current schedule through the month of June:

June 7	Sandra Bosse and Janet Barrett
June 14	Bonnie Mohr and Jo Ann Buck
June 21	Shelli James and Kathy Pawlowski
June 28	Thresia Schlabach and Kim Wellmann

If you for some reason, you can't do it some Sunday, please switch with someone and be sure to let Joy know in the church office. Thanks!

If you would like to volunteer to be a song leader, please let Lois Holle know. You may choose to be at any microphone, including the one in the balcony if you don't want to be in front of the congregation. In order to lead, you don't need to be professional, mainly confident and energetic. Thanks!

**Thank you:**

Friedens Church-

Thank you for the cards, prayers and visits from Pastor Ron after David's heart attack. It is very comforting to know there are very special people out there who care about us.

God Bless, *David and Tess*

Dear Friedens Church,

Thank you for the graduate book and book mark, and for recognizing my college graduation, I appreciate your thoughtfulness and the food was great, too! It was wonderful to be able to participate and see everyone again. Thank you so much.

*Emily Lanham*

Thank you very much for the graduation dinner and book. I greatly appreciate your support in this momentous time of my life.

*Sincerely, Rebecca Wellmann*

My thanks to all of you for your prayers during my recent surgery. Special thanks to you Pastor Ron for your words of comfort and presence at the hospital. Also for all the food, cards, and calls to help me. I'm so blessed to have all of you in my life.

*Rose Lee Lohmeyer*

Arthur and I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for all of your prayers, cards, food and memorials during the time of our loss. We are so blessed in having such a caring family and friends. Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

*Arthur and Mary*

I would like to thank all my friends and relatives for their hospital and home visits, phone calls, food, and flowers. Most importantly, thank you for all your prayers. A special thank you to Pastor Ron and his family. This all meant a lot to me and I hope to return the favor if you ever need me. I'm just a phone call away. May God bless you all.

*Clint Bosse*

Thank you for your cards and visits after my foot surgery in March. Your kindness, prayers and concerns were appreciated. Thanks to Pastor Ron for his visit and prayers.

*Jo Ann Buck*

Dear Women of the Church,

Thank you so much for everything you have done for the Youth Program and myself. I am so grateful for the amount of help that you have provided in the months that I have been at Friedens. Thank you for your generous donations to the Free-Will Offering Breakfast and to myself. I am greatly appreciative of the support you have offered. I look forward to returning and serving this congregation in the fall.

Thanks again, *Tyler Parks*

Dear Friends at Friedens Church,

Thank you very much for all the nice cards you sent on all the special occasions and also for the Easter card. It is so good to have friends remembering me.

As always thanks again, *Annie Mae Dickschat*

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## The earthly power of four

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In 1921 Arthur W. Pink posed the question, "Why Four Gospels?" In seeking the answer to his question he revealed these interesting properties of the number four:

- "Four" is the number of the earth — the world.
- There are four corners of the world or four points on the compass — north, south, east and west.
- There are four seasons in the earth's year — spring, summer, autumn and winter.
- There are four elements connected with our world — earth, air, fire and water.
- There have been four great world-empires — the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian and the Roman.
- Scripture divides earth's inhabitants into four classes — "tribe, language, people and nation" (Revelation 5:9).
- In the "Parable of the Sower" (Matthew 13), seed is scattered onto four types of earth — path, rocky, thorny and good soil. Later Jesus said, "the field is the world."
- The fourth commandment tells us to rest from all earth's labors.
- The fourth clause in the Lord's prayer is, "Thy will be done on earth."
- If four is the number of the earth, then it is quite fitting that there are four Gospels in which to set forth the earthly ministry of the Heavenly One.

—Based on *Why Four Gospels?*  
by Arthur W. Pink

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## Louder, I can't hear you

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Bill Moyers, the theologically trained television personality often seen on PBS stations, was once an aide to President Lyndon Johnson. During that time the President often asked him to pray before a meeting or a meal.

Once, just as Moyers began a prayer, the President spoke up and said, "Louder, I can't hear you."

Young Moyers responded, "With all due respect Mr. President, the prayer is not addressed to you."

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## A prayer for the home

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Bless our home that we cherish the bread before there is none, discover each other before we leave, and enjoy each other for what we are while we have time. Amen

Attendance for month of April 2009

	Date	attendance	
April	1	39	Lenten service
April	5	202	Confirmation 157 comm.
	9	26	M. Thurs.
	10	36	Good Friday
	12	202	Easter 161 comm.
	19	58	
	26	56	
May	3	131	110 comm. (Graduate dinner)
	10	106	Mother's Day
	17	68	
	24	77	
	31	79	

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**In every blade of grass**

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"Nature is a gift from God and every blade of grass is a sermon," a preacher told his summertime congregation.

The next day, the minister was mowing his lawn when a member of the church came along. The parishioner stood and watched his pastor mow for a while. Then, nodding his head in approval, he said, "Way to go, Pastor, cut 'em short!"

**Food Pantry Workers**

June 4- Jo Ann Bosse &  
Rose Lee Lohmeyer  
11- Mary Borgstedte &  
Sandy Taylor  
18- Mary H. Steele &  
Jan Trimmer  
25- Bonnie Mohr &  
Vivian Kolkhorst

July 2- Terry Campbell &  
May D. Lanham  
9- Jo Ann Bosse &  
Rose L. Lohmeyer  
16- Mary Borgstedte &  
Sandy Taylor  
23- Mary H. Steele &  
Jan Trimmer  
30- Bonnie Mohr &  
Vivian Kolkhorst

***Friedens Church of Washington, UCC***

<b>Liturgists</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>
<b>June</b>		
7- Jackie Schroeder	Spencer James	Kevin & Jacque Bartol
14- Gary Bogan	Blake Wellmann	Preston & Melissa Boenker
21- Mary Borgstedte	Trey Krause	Clyde & Kitty Miller
28- Sandra Bosse	Todd Wellmann	Don Hinze & Julie Kelley
<b>July</b>		
5- Jo Ann Buck	Dalton Wellmann	Brad & Sherri Bogan
12- Josh Corn	Raelynn Maxson	Sandra & Clay Bosse
19- Ashley Wilson	Drake Pawlowski	Roger Mohr & May D. Lanham
26- Misti Corn	Will Corn	Dusty & Kasey Kennedy

**Calendar of events:**

**June**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 2- TEEA meeting 2 pm.                                       |                      |
| 3- UCC Women meeting 7 pm.                                  | JUNE                 |
| 8- Trustee meeting 6 pm.                                    | 1 2 3 4 5 6          |
| 8- Church council 7 pm.                                     | 7 8 9 10 11 12 13    |
| 8- 4-H meeting 7 pm.  | 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 |
| 8-12 VBS at Wiedeville Lutheran Church                      | 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 |
| 14- <u>Blood Drive 9 am-12:30 pm</u>                        | 28 29 30             |
| 21- Father's Day  |                      |
| 24- Fun and Fellowship 2 pm.                                |                      |
| 26- Church wide Salad Supper 7 pm.<br>@ The Activity Center |                      |
| 27- Wedding -- Herzog & Smith                               |                      |

**July**

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|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1- UCC Women meeting 7 pm.      |                      |
| 4- Independence Day             | JULY                 |
| 7- TEEA meeting 2 pm.           | 1 2 3 4              |
| 13- Trustee meeting 6 pm.       | 5 6 7 8 9 10 11      |
| Church council 7 pm.            | 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 |
| 4-H meeting 7 pm.               | 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 |
| 16- Women's Fellowship 2:15 pm. | 26 27 28 29 30 31    |
| 22- Fun and Fellowship 2 pm.    |                      |

**Welcoming committee**

- June 7- Sally Stolz & Stephanie Maxson  
 14- Ruth Lauter & Judy Bogan  
 21- Betsy Bosse & Michael James  
 28- Sandy & Jack Taylor

**Song leaders for June:**

- June 7 – Sandra Bosse & Janet Barrett  
 14- Bonnie Mohr & Jo Ann Buck  
 21- Shelli James & Kathy Pawlowski  
 28- Thresia Schlabach & Kim Wellmann

- July 5- Linda Oberhoff & Will Corn  
 12- Shelley Schluens & Rose L. Lohmeyer  
 19- Sandra Bosse & Terry Campbell  
 26- LaNell Langford & Willie D. Lohmeyer