



## *Friedens Church of Washington, UCC*

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

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. James 5:13-16

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

Prayer is a wonderful gift from God, for we can pour out our worries and fears, casting upon the Lord all our anxieties as well as our hopes and concerns and deepest longings.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25, and this year I thought I would embark upon a spiritual discipline during this year’s Lenten journey. You hear of folks “giving up” something for Lent, but this year I invite you to join with me in making an intentional, faithful effort to pray ... pray for those that are sick or struggling or need some encouragement, for those who hold a special place in your heart, even for those who you often disagree with or seem to be at odds with, even your “enemies.” Also pray for our church, in all aspects of our ministry, from our worship services to our outreach to our Sunday School and Youth program to our various organizations to our church council and other committees. And pray for me, for wisdom and guidance and discernment. There’s a saying, “if you want a better pastor, pray for the one you have!” And that is so true! And let us pray for our world and nation, for our leaders, for peace and justice and for God’s will to be done.

To assist with this time of intentional prayer, during Lent I will be keeping a “prayer journal” as a spiritual discipline. I’ll note folks to remember in prayer, writing down a little bit about their situation. The very act of journaling can be a form of prayer as you pour out your thoughts and feelings. I invite you to join with me in this endeavor.

As Alfred, Lord Tennyson in *Morte D’Arthur* reminds us, “More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.”

Blessings and Peace,  
Pastor Ron

[www.friedenschurch.com](http://www.friedenschurch.com)  
P.O. Box 306 • Washington, Texas 77880-0306  
Phone: (936)878-2523 • Parsonage: (936)878-2155  
Email: [pastor@friedenschurch.com](mailto:pastor@friedenschurch.com)