

**Faith U.C.C.**  
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New Braunfels, TX 78130

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Rev. Scott B. Martin

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Some passion plays end with the resurrection, while others end with the Ascension. Either way it is pretty dramatic. I remember taking a group from the church I had in Wichita to see the Passion play in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. This play ends with Christ Ascending into the skies. The person playing Christ is dressed in a brilliant white robe and a powerful spotlight lights him as he dramatically ascends some hundred feet into the air. I have to admit that it was pretty impressive, but I have to say that some of the dramatic intent was lost on me because I was busy trying to see the cable that was lifting him up. We can lose some of the poetic truth of a thing when we try too hard to figure it out! That's why magicians never tell how they do a trick. It spoils it.

The Ascension is necessary to the Christian story because once Jesus is resurrected from the dead there has to be some way to get him up to heaven. The resurrected Christ can't just keep walking the earth till the end of time. Furthermore, The Ascension becomes a fulfillment of the Resurrection. Not only does God raise Christ from the dead, God raises him to heaven to take his rightful place in the heavenly kingdom at

the right hand of God. In this way what Paul spoke of in Philippians 2:9-11 comes to pass, *"Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."* The Ascension marks the heavenly enthronement of the Son of Man.

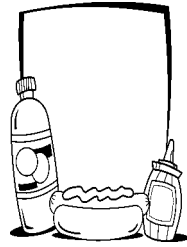
The Ascension has implications for us as Christians. The Interpreters Bible puts it this way: Christ's "...enthronement in heaven as Lord of the cosmos means that human existence is ultimately under the control of the Humiliated, the Crucified, whose obedience is the key to meaningful existence. Faith in Christ's ascension thus means not only that his serve and suffering were his freedom and his victory, but that in his 'obedience unto death' the path of transcendence within service and suffering is revealed as a reality for us and made accessible to us as authentic existence." Christ's ascension gives us hope and confidence in Christ's promise *"that he goes to prepare a place for us,"* as the Gospel of John puts it.

## News From Sister Churches

### Community

#### Evangelical UCC

4443 Hunnicutt Dr.  
San Antonio  
Sausage Dinner \$7  
Wednesday, May 2  
11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Fearless Living  
Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

McKenna Events Center  
801 W. San Antonio Streee

Harriet Schupp will speak. She is a nationally known speaker from New Orleans. She will speak on a prayer based system of healing. The event is sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientists, here in New Braunfels.

### Friedens UCC

#### Ascension Day Service

Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m.

Fellowship and Refreshments after the service.

## Thanks From Eden Seminary

Thank you for your recent gift of \$81.99 to Eden Theological Seminary. Your contribution will help underwrite the education of more than 200 men and women preparing for ministry in the church. Your support is greatly appreciated by the students who benefit from your support – I share words of gratitude expressed by first year student, Ellen Martin:

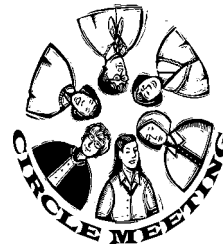
‘Thank you for your commitment to Eden Seminary and its students. Your interest and support goes much deeper than a check in the mail. You may never

meet some of us, but the fruits of your work will affect many people in many communities of faith for years to come. Thank you for your confidence in this school and its students like myself who have come here to prepare to minister for all God’s people.’

Sincerely,  
Stella Schoen  
Vice President for Development

## April Circle of Faith News

The meeting in April was a very interesting and stimulating presentation about what would happen if a “pandemic” hit our city. How would we cope with it? How could we prepare ourselves for it? Was there a way to prevent it from happening? Mr. Sammy Sikes, from the Public Health Department was very knowledgeable on this subject and told how he and the department are working on these very issues. As hard as it is to think of disasters like this happening, it is vitally important that we not ignore the possibility and get prepared.

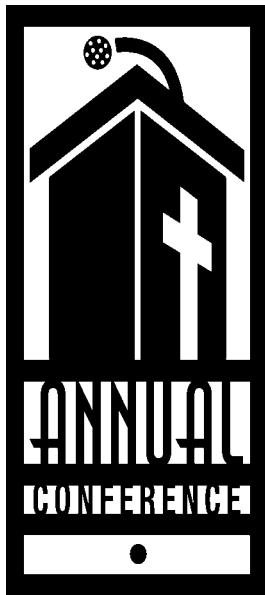


The Luncheon for the Church Women of Comal County was held at First Protestant Church and was a great success. Thank you all who attended and who supported the mission of the luncheon, which was Westside Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Ludwig

## South Central Conference Annual Meeting June 1-3

This year's conference annual meeting will be held quite close to us, at the Doubletree Hotel near the airport in San Antonio. This will make it easy for both our delegates and visitors to attend, just a short 30-5 minute drive. Our new conference minister will be installed. There will be workshops, good speakers, fellowship and inspiring times worship. Mark your calendars now and be looking for more information soon.

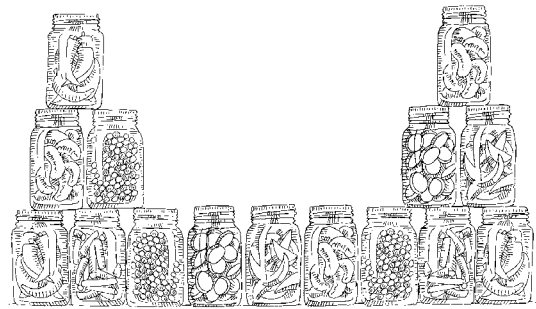


Since the meeting is in our association, area churches are being asked to bring 25 dozen cookies each, for the hospitality room. We also need a homemade loaf of bread for the communion service on Sunday. If you can help with these, please let the pastor know.

### SOS Food Bank

The local food bank continues to serve some 400 families each month with some 30/40 pounds of food. It is expected that each family has additional sources so they can provide food for the

entire month. Although the food inventory is rather low at this time it is expected that in the month of May a huge influx of contributed food will fill the storage area. **A postal workers food drive will take place on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.** This is an annual gathering of food at your mail box (if you place something there!!!) The person delivering the mail to your mail box will receive it and it will be taken to the SOS Food Bank building on Merriweather Street. Your help will be appreciated.

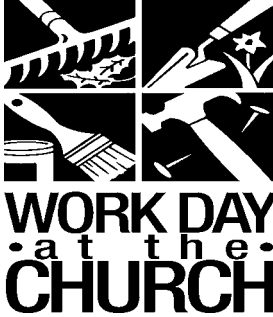


On Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, our crew from Faith Church was responsible for providing bags of good for some 16 families, representing some 36 people. Along side of this we received well over 200 pounds of food from individuals that dropped by. Those from Faith Church who helped were: Don Gregg, Ken Triesch, Courtney and Lois Swander, Sherie Haynes, Emily Deninno, and Emma Lou and Ray Bizer. Thanks to these and to all for help in contributing food and money.

Ray Bizer

P.S. Don't forget you can also bring food to the church and leave it in the basket provided.. Our next workday at the Food Bank is Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help contact Ray Bizer for details and location of the Food Bank.

## Workday at the Church Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>



We have lots of big and little jobs that need to be done around the church. The Men's Group is organizing a work day for Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>. They will provide breakfast for all the workers who show up!

There will be jobs for everyone, from painting, to yard work, to carpentry, to cleaning, etc. Supplies will be provided

## Christian Education News

It's difficult to imagine, but our Church School year is coming to an end. We have so enjoyed all of our time with our young ones and adults. The decision to teach our children's class during the worship time has been a success we believe. We have been able to see an increase in attendance! Parents who juggle so much on Sunday morning can come knowing their children will be actively participating in lectionary based learning. Not only that, but the interaction among the different ages seems to be a positive experience.

We know that concessions have had to be made and we so appreciate the willingness on everyone's part to make this work. It is difficult to encompass the needs of all



Sunday School

ages, we know; and to try to accommodate this, we have ordered a more broadly based, multi-age curriculum for the fall.

**Our yearly classes will end on May 27.** At this time we will encourage all children over 5 years to stay in church during the worship service. Because of the age span of our children, we would really appreciate only the youngest to be in the nursery.

The Church Council is preparing a sign-up time for nursery care for infants up to 5 years of age. Isn't great to see that we have growing children and little ones?! Please consider helping with this important ministry to our youngest members.

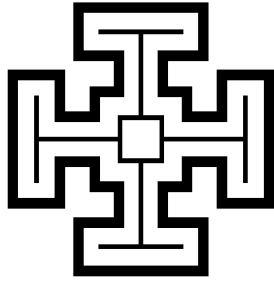
Thanking you in advance.... The Christian Education Committee



## New Member Sunday May 13

On Sunday May 13th George and Mary Dare will join Faith UCC. If anyone else would like to join, please contact the pastor. George and Mary moved here from Arizona, where they were members of Church of the Beatitudes UCC.

## May Sunday Volunteers



### USHERS

- May 6 Julia Allison – Sol Fuss –  
Evelyn Krueger – Karen Kramm  
May 13 Curt & Cullen Leonhardt  
Don Gregg – Bruce Ridgley  
May 20 Richard & Kathy Leber  
Steve & Nancy Foster  
May 27 Jennifer & Tim Marlow  
Bennie Harst – Sheri Haynes

### LITURGISTS

- May 6 Karen Kramm  
May 13 Lois Swander  
May 20 Bonnie Stark  
May 27 George Dare

### COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- May 6 Jim Gossett  
May 13 Tim Marlow  
May 20 Bonnie Stark  
May 27 Joe Ward

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- May 6 Evelyn Krueger & Karen Kramm

### ACOLYTES

- May 6 Tiffany Gilbreth  
May 13 Cullen Leonhardt  
May 20 Richard Leger  
May 27 Jim Gossett

### GREETERS

- May 6 Dorothy Rest  
May 13 Courtney Swander  
May 20 Darlene Stephens  
May 27 Ara & Tom Ward

### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- May 6 Ray and Emma Lou Bizer  
May 13 Kathleen Hoffmann  
May 20 WE NEED SOMEONE!  
May 27 WE NEED SOMEONE!



- May 2 Sausage Dinner Community UCC  
in San Antonio 11 – 2:30 pm \$7

- May 6 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Communion  
Wine on the River fundraiser at  
the Springs Restaurant for the  
Community Service Organization

- May 10 Circle of Faith 11 a.m.

- May 12 Church Work Day - breakfast  
at 8 a.m.

- May 13 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
Reception of new members

- May 17 Gifts/Memorial Com. 10:30 a.m.

- May 20 Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

- May 22 Newsletter articles due

- May 23 Church Council 6:30 p.m.

- May 27 Church Service 10:30 a.m.

**Faith United Church of Christ  
970 N. Loop 337  
New Braunfels, TX 78130**



**Board of Missions**

**Strengthen the  
Church  
Offering  
Sunday May  
27<sup>th</sup>**

Dear Friends,

This year as we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UCC on June 24<sup>th</sup> we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering as our anniversary gift. The official date of this offering is Pentecost Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. This offering is dedicated to faithfully building the Body of Christ by starting new churches where the need is great

and renewing existing congregations that only need some assistance from us to thrive again. Our contributions to Strengthen the Church help fund ordained leadership for these congregations.

The Strengthen the Church offering also funds programs for youth and young adults, and leadership development for the whole church. Please think about how important a strong and vital church is to you and your family and consider making a generous gift. Anniversaries are cause to celebrate – what better way than to Strengthen the Church for its next 50 years!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Scott

## Cullen Leonhardt's Confirmation Paper

I chose this passage of the UCC Statement of Faith: *"You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, and eternal life in your realm which has no end."*

I chose this piece of the Statement of Faith because of how it depicts us as well as it depicts God. God's promise is extremely simple, showing us how graceful he can be. First, he forgives your sins, then he gives you courage, then his very presence makes us rejoice and worship him. How can such a simple promise mean so much? That is what I learned in confirmation.



First you are forgiven of all your sins. This is an amazing thing. The slate is not wiped clean, it is simply forgotten. That means we believe that we have been saved. Would you be able to forgive someone who killed your son? Because that is precisely what God did. He forgave. He did something humanity sometimes forgets to do; he gives you

not just a second chance, but an infinite number of chances. God is omniscient, and knows you for who you are, even if we don't know him.

Then, after you are forgiven you are given courage to do what is right. Now this shows that one: you need help from God, and two: God has so much courage he can give it to the millions and millions of people that need it. Not only is He nice enough to give you what you need, but he is nice enough to do the same to the numerous Christians today.

He gives you courage so that you can try for justice and peace. This could mean a lot, because it never says that you can completely obtain either. Justice is extremely hard to reach for humanity, because we don't know what God's justice would be, but we base our own justice on what we think it could be. Peace is equally unobtainable because of how we think of life. Humans think of what could happen and how it could affect them. We think in first person, and often excluding things we simply don't want to hear. God not only achieves justice in the end, but gives us peace, which is order, which is what we hope for, and try to achieve.

After everything else that he has done, he gives us eternal life to top it all off. Not only will our lives be eternal, but we will literally have everything that we want. We won't end, God won't end, and wherever we exist won't end.

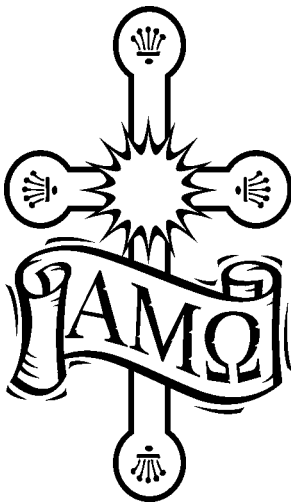
Basically, God is forgiving and you know that even when you do something wrong and you are sorry, God will forgive and forget, and you are Ok in the end.

## Thanks to All Who Helped With the Easter Services!!!

A big thank you to all of you who had any part in the helping with the Easter services! There are so many jobs that have to be done for even the regular services let alone something special like Easter. It wouldn't be possible to pull it off without lots of people pitching in.

I can't list everyone's name, because I know I would leave someone or several off. There are a few names though who we should mention by name: Ken Triesch for organizing and leading the choir as well as playing the organ; Karen Kramm and Evelyn Krueger for organizing both the Seder meal and the Easter continental breakfast; and David Pena for creating and setting up the waterfall down the altar step. Again thanks to **EVERYONE!**

Pastor Scott



### Prayer Concerns

Our thoughts and prayers are with Elmo Fischer and his family upon the death of his daughter Marti Rodriguez.



## Wine on the River Community Service Center Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2-6 p.m.

The Community Service Center will have its annual fundraising *Wine on the River* event on Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. This year it will be held at the Springs Restaurant on their beautiful 8,000 square foot outdoor patio area. There will be wine from various countries to sample as well as food from a variety of local restaurants. There will also be live entertainment and a chef giving cooking demonstrations. You can get a ticket from Michele Gilbreth or Ken Triesch.



The Community Service Center was created out of faith, and founded in the belief that we are called to help all God's children heart to heart and hand in hand.

We were incorporated in 1975 and since that time NB-CSC has grown to encompass a coalition of churches, civic groups, and multiple organizations... united in service.

Thanks to many Volunteers, Churches, and Organizations; NB-CSC currently offers services through the following outreach programs: Church-Care, Emergency Services, Electric Program, Thanksgiving Care Program. The Christmas Outreach Program and Holiday Express proved to be a record setting year, serving over 1200 clients.



