

March 2018
Faith UCC
970 N. Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter
Church Phone 625-6761
www.faithuccnb.org
Rev. Scott B. Martin, Pastor
Cell Phone 830-515-2866
Rev. Ray Bizer, Pastor Emeritus
Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman

Pastor's Page

In our Lenten Book Study we have been looking at the book on the Sermon on the Mount by Clarence Jordan. He takes a very interesting and different approach to it than most of us do or that most scholars do. He does not see the various beatitudes as describing different groups of people: poor in spirit; those who mourn, the meek; etc. He says Jesus is describing one group of people, those who are on the path to living in and out of the Kingdom of God in this life. He sees the various beatitudes as being "stair steps to Kingdom living. It culminates in the final three beatitudes that speak of the pure of heart "seeing God", living peaceably and being called "children of God". Although, Jesus warns that while these children of God may experience blessing they may well also experience persecution.

In Matthew this is all re-enforced immediately after when Jesus says all who live this way will become the "salt of the earth", the seasoning this world needs. If that metaphor doesn't work for you Jesus throws another in for good measure, such people will be "the light of the world". Others will see the "good works" and "give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16)

Clarence Jordan and others at Koinonia Farm didn't just talk the talk, they were truly salty salt and a shining light for the Kingdom. They still are. The farm was founded to be a Christian community that included both whites and blacks. Imagine them doing this in 1942 in rural Georgia! The farm was shot at, bombs thrown, threatened, and economically boycotted by the community. Dr. Andrew Young said even some civil rights workers were afraid to go there. When Jordan was threatened he said if they were killed "they wouldn't be the first Christians to die for their faith."

Besides living out the faith in Christian community many other things came out of their amazing experiment in Christian living. Clarence Jordan translated from the Greek the four gospels, the book of Hebrews and some of the epistles into what he called the "Cotton Patch Gospels". Clarence also mentored Millard and Linda Fuller, who went on to establish Habitat for Humanity. The ideas they put into action through Habitat they learned at Koinonia.

We are also watching a documentary "Briars in the Cotton Patch" and on a lighter note looking at parts of musical version of the Cotton Patch Gospel that Harry Chapin wrote some of the music and lyrics for shortly before his death in 1981. Check out Koinonia Farms at <https://www.koinoniafarm.org/> and the musical at <http://www.lorencollins.net/cottonpatchgospel/> (be sure and click on the video link for a sample of the musical). Koinonia is still going strong 75 years after its founding and Clarence Jordan's untimely death from a heart attack in 1969. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God. Check out their farm products at <https://www.koinoniafarm.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2017-8-catalog.pdf>

Holy Week & Easter

Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday March 25th

We will be passing out palm crosses and have a time for a meditative action placing a nail in the cross during this service.



Seder Meal on Good Friday, March 30th at 6 p.m.

This has become something of an annual tradition. We need volunteers to help prepare food and do clean up afterwards. Come out for a delicious meal. Lamb stew and chicken casserole will be the entrees. Wine will be served with the meal. The Passover Seder liturgy leading up to the meal takes about 30-40 minutes. There will be a free will offering to defray the costs of the meal. The meal begins at 6 p.m. Please RSVP on the list in the narthex/entry way so we know how many to prepare for.

Easter Sunday Services April 1st

We will gather at **Slumber Falls Camp at Vesper Point at 8 a.m.** for an early service in the midst of the God's creation. Listen to the gentles sounds of the Guadalupe River as service goes on. In case of rain we will meet under the roof of the basket ball court. The service lasts about 40 minutes.



Join us for an Easter breakfast in the fellowship hall beginning about 9 a.m. After breakfast there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids.

The main Easter service will be at the usual time at 10:30 a.m. It will include communion and conclude with a Monarch butterfly release outside in the parking lot, weather permitting.



Easter Lilies and Butterflies

If you want to bring an Easter lily in memory of or in honor of someone please bring it either Palm Sunday and leave it in the secretary's office or bring it early Easter Sunday. If you want the info in the bulletin fill out a 3 by 5 card. I need it by Friday, March 30th and we will get it into the bulletin.

If you want a butterfly for the butterfly release on Easter Sunday please put \$10 in the can and fill out a 3 by 5 card how you want the wording for who it is in memory of or honor of.



Join us in celebrating

Lucile's 100th!

When: Sunday, March 11th

2:00pm - 7:00pm

Where: **Fischer Hall**, Fischer, TX

What: Visit with the Birthday Girl, 2-6pm

Music and Dancing, 4-7pm

BBQ Dinner*, 5pm

*No gifts ,please, but bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Water and tea provided. BYOB.

She's only been waiting 100 years to see you there!

RSVP: Alan Marburger 512 - 560 -7072

alanmarburger@gmail.com

Thank You from Back Bay Mission

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission of \$317.10! Your gift to Friends of the Mission makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We - and those we serve - are ever grateful!

Grace and Peace, Rev. Alice Graham, Ph. D, Executive Director



SOS Thank You & 2017 Update

Our Spirit of Sharing Food Bank has completed another year of helping those in need. The BOD would like to thank YOU for your help in doing this with your 2017 contribution. We have been able to continue this mission since June 1, 1988 with help from contributors like you.

We distributed 297,869 pounds of food to clients and low income centers in 2017. Our volunteers now number over 200. We are able to operate with no paid staff.

In 2017 we spent 88% of our income on food with only 12% going to operating expenses (which included CPA services, insurance, supplies, and maintenance).

We received donations throughout the year from the Letter Carriers' Drive, Wurst Drive by both school districts, drives by churches, clubs, the radio station, organizations and businesses. This provides 35% of food above the purchased food. This is true Spirit of Sharing! Our community is outstanding!

You are invited to visit us any weekday from 1-4 p.m. or the first three Saturdays from 9 to 11 a.m. This is when our volunteers are serving clients. Our Board meets every month on the third Monday at 9 a.m.

Many Thanks, SOS Food Bank, Sandy Buck, President



Slumber Falls Thank You

We extend a very special thank you for your contribution of \$876 that we received on January 2018. We are certainly blessed by Churches like yours who keep us in mind.

Camp is all about exploring faith and developing relationships to the Church. It becomes an interesting fact of life to see our young people taking an active role in the Church after being exposed to camp opportunities that fostered their spiritual journeys. Your contribution helps us attract positive role model leadership that in turn helps our campers learn to grow meaningful personal relationships with each other and God.

Together with God's grace and your willing partnership, we will continue the ministry of Slumber Falls Camp.

Sincerely, Terri Armstrong, Assistant Administrator

(who are those 4 in the middle of the picture?)





Thank You From Eden Hill Communities

Thank you and the church congregation for its recent donation of \$584.58. We are so pleased to direct these funds in support of enhanced resident care and staff excellence at Eden Hill.

As a means of updating you, Eden Hill has been reviewing opportunities to augment current operating revenues through activities that are closely linked to our mission. Projects currently under discussion include:

- expanding dementia/memory care services in-house and into the community,
- remodeling and upgrading older skilled nursing rooms and common areas,
- installing an in-patient hospice operation,
- offering non-health home services in-house and in the New Braunfels area.

If you or anyone in the congregation should have a question about EdenHill's future plans, please contact me at 830-500-2353 or at steve@edenhills.org

Here's to EdenHill's future, and send with regards and best wishes.

Sincerely, Steve Sucher, Office of Fund Development

March Birthdays!

3-5 Fischer Roland Marlow

3-7 Curt Leonhardt

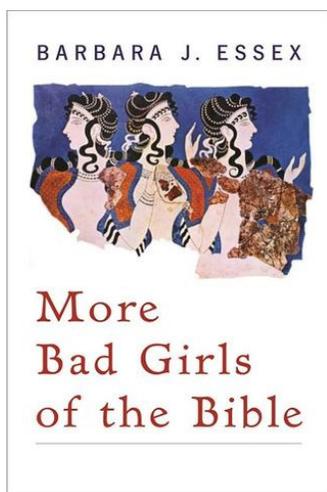
3-8 Lucile Marburger

3-15 Ralph Ludwig

3-22 Jennifer Marlow



Women's Sunday March 4th



The United Church of Christ will be celebrating Women's Week March 4-10. This coincides with the International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8th. Janet Sherman will be coordinating and leading the worship service on March 4th using the UCC worship material for that day. The "Women's Voices" during the sermon time will come from Rev. Barbara Essex's book, "More Bad Girls of the Bible." The goal is to use some of the stories of our spiritual ancestors to explore the "# Me Too" moment we are in. Women's stories in scripture has often been interpreted to reinforce negative stereotypes about women, but a fresh and feminist eye can uncover new insights and help give context to today's movement. Recognizing women as full human beings, actors, agents with motives and experience to contribute helps to make our story whole - more true and right and real, and therefore, holy. Reflecting on these stories may help inform our work for justice for women.

Heart of Texas Association News

Our Heart of Texas Association spring meeting will be held on Saturday, April 21st, beginning at 11 am, with registration starting at 10:30, at Weimar UCC. This spring, we are meeting in the Brazos Valley group area, and we have changed our start time to 11 for the first time to allow more travel time in the morning for those who need to drive for several hours. The



meeting will continue through lunch. We will be deciding the agenda and timeline soon, but we anticipate a gathering of similar length to those in the past. Weimar has graciously agreed to host, although the location is tentative pending completion of their new kitchen remodel. If the kitchen is done, we will be celebrating its completion with them. If Weimar is unable to host, Friends Congregational in College Station has also graciously agreed to be the backup location. Look for more details about the meeting soon.

As many of you know, the Heart of Texas Association is the host for this year's **South Central Conference Annual Meeting, to be held Friday, June 1st - Saturday, June 2nd at Camp Allen, located between Navasota and Hempstead. The theme this year is "Gospel Bound."** We will be having an installation service and celebration for Conference Minister Don Longbottom on Friday night, with UCC General Minister John Dorhauer preaching. Our program will be focused on workshops and discussion groups on the Conference's four priorities: spiritual formation, development, and renewal; living out the Jesus ethic; church revitalization and renewal; and fundraising to achieve these goals. Our planning committee is doing creative work to put a great gathering together. For those who have been to Camp Allen, you will remember it as a beautiful conference center and camp. For those who have not been there, we invite you to come for the first time and enjoy the fellowship and worship at this lovely place. Registration material will be coming soon.

I have been asked recently about whether there will be a Southern Regional Youth Event this year. Apparently, there isn't one being planned, but there are four regional UCC youth events this summer, and we are invited to attend any of them. The closest is the West Central Youth Event in Grinnell, Iowa at the UCC-related Grinnell College on June 19th-23rd. The event promises "dynamic worship, hands on mission experience, small group faith exploration, inspirational music by the Convergence Music Project, and an opportunity for all to explore how to put their faith into action." I have been to several of these UCC youth events, and they are always marvelous and memorable opportunities for our youth and the adults who go with them. If you want to find out more about this event and the others across the country, go to <http://www.cvent.com/events/regional-youth-event-2018/event-summary-773217442e61480680434b11c349a1cb.aspx> .

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

March Worship Assistants

3-4-18 Liturgist: Donna Myer, Acolyte: Ava Perry, Council Rep: Valerie Oates, Greeter: Mikki Ward, Hospitality: Sheila Angerer, AV: Cassidy Sisco-Martinez
Ushers: Alice Chapel; Beth Bizer; Jan Ziegler, Grace Perry; Communion: Kathy Leber,
Church School: Camdyn Martinez & Kim & Sofia Beauchamp, Nursery: TBA,
Communion Servers: Valerie Oates; Carol Sisco-Martinez; Mikki Ward; Michelle Perry

3-11 Liturgist: Kathy Leber Acolyte: Kim Beauchamp Council Rep: Kim Beauchamp
Greeter: Richard Leber Hospitality: Julia Allison AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Kim Beauchamp; Richard & Kathy Leber; Joe Ward
Church School: Spring Break Nursery: TBA

3-18 Liturgist: Quinn Perry Acolyte: Cade Perry Council Rep: Dan Geisler
Greeter: Cassidy Martinez Hospitality: Vicky Geisler AV: Jakob Beauchamp
Ushers: Grace Perry; Camdyn Martinez; Sofia Beauchamp; Elly Beauchamp
Church School: Spring Break Nursery: TBA

3-25 Liturgist: Bob Manning Acolyte: and Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez
Greeter: Shirley Manning Hospitality: Jan Ziegler AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Eddie & Carol Martinez; Bob & Shriley Manning
Church School: Karen Dietz & Julia Allison Nursery: TBA

4-1 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte: Jason Chapel Council Rep: Jason Chapel
Greeter: Sandy Ludwig Hospitality: Karen Dietz AV: Mikki Ward
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Joe Ward; Ralph Ludwig; Richard Leber
Church School: Easter Break! Nursery: TBA Communion: Kathy Leber

4-8 Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte: Kyle Kramm Council Rep: Kyle Kramm
Greeter: Karen Kramm Hospitality: Nicolle Clark AV: Michelle Perry
Ushers: Julia Allison; Karen Kramm; Kyle Kramm;
Church School: Nursery: TBA

If you cannot serve on the date(s) shown, please try to find a sub. If that is not possible, leave a message at the church (830-625-6761) as soon as possible. If you would like to be added or removed from all or part of the Worship Assistant List, please contact the church office.



March/ April Calendar

- 3-4 Women's Sunday Worship at 10:30 Pastor Janet coordinates the service
- 3-5 NB Comunity Chorus rehearsal 6:30-9 p.m. sanctuary & Health & Fitness Baese 6:30-7:30
- 3-7 Lenten Book Study in Baese 6:30-8 p.m.
- 3-10 CROP Walk at Canyon Lake
- 3-11 Fourth Sunday of Lent Worship at 10:30 a.m. **OGHS Special Offering**
Lucille Marburger's 100th Birthday Celebration 2-7 p.m. at Fischer Store in Fischer, TX
- 3-13 NB Comunity Chorus rehearsal 6:30-9 p.m. sanctuary & Health & Fitness Baese 6:30-7:30
- 3-14 Lenten Book Study in Baese 6:30-8 p.m.
- 3-16 SOS Food Bank 1-4 p.m. volunteers needed
- 3-17 HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
- 3-18 Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 3-20 NB Chorus in sanctuary 6:30-9 p.m.
- 3-21 Lenten Book Study in Baese 6:30-8 p.m.
- 3-25 Sixth Sunday of Lent Worship at 10:30 a.m.
- 3-27 NB Chorus in sanctuary 6:30-9 p.m.
- 3-28 Lenten Book Study in Baese 6:30-8 p.m. (Last class)
April Newsletter articles due (newsletter goes out via email March 31st)
- 3-30 Seder Meal in Baese 6 - 8 p.m. (rsvp in advance - free will offering)
- 4-1 Easter Sunday 8 a.m. service at Slumber Falls Vesper Point
Easter Breakfast at approximately 9 a.m. in Baese Hall
Easter Egg Hunt for the kids following breakfast
Regular Easter Sunday Service with Communion & Butterfly Release at 10:30 a.m.

