

April 2019
Faith UCC
970 N. Loop 337
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter
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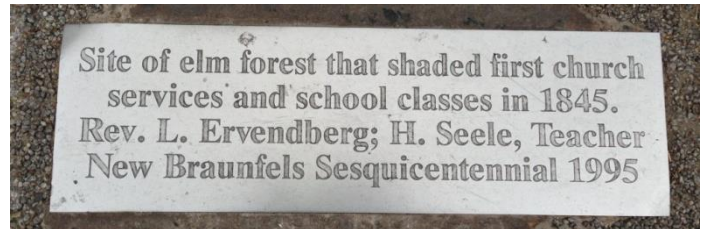
This year we are exploring "Theology of Place" here in New Braunfels and the surrounding area. Next year, 2020, New Braunfels will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding! Did you know that the original German settlers

arrived on the Texas coast in December of 1844.

Prince Solms traveled to San Antonio and purchased 1,265 acres from Maria Antonio Garza and her husband Rafael E. Garza who held the original Veremendi Land Grant from Spain. (This is where the new planned community across from NB High School gets its name.) He paid \$1,112 for the land. **The first wagons with German immigrants arrived on Good Friday on March 21, 1845.**

One of the first settlers, Hermann Seele, wrote in his diary "The beauty of the place was astounding. Masses of wild flowers covered the prairie and powerful springs added to the magnificent beauty creating a crystal clear river which would serve the industry of the future." By the summer of 1845 the population of the new town of New Braunfels was between 300-400.

Since the first settlers arrived on Good Friday their very first act was to stop and worship and give thanks to God for bringing them all the way from Germany to this new land. They worshipped under a large elm tree on Coll Street. The tree is no longer there but there is plaque commemorating where it took place.



Rev. Louis Ervendberg emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1839. He settled first in Illinois where he started a number of churches in northern Illinois. He met his wife there and after the death of their children they moved to Houston. He purchased ground for market gardening. While there he met Ferdinand Linheimer. On December 22, 1839 he held the first recorded church services among German settlers in Texas. He moved to Bluementhal and pastored a number of churches: Industry, Cat Springs, Biegal, La Grange, and Columbus.

When an infant daughter died among the Settlers Prince Solms was bringing to Texas he asked Rev. Ervendberg to minister to the colonists. He became the founding pastor of what is now First Protestant Church on October 15, 1845. First Protestant founded Faith UCC in 1966, when it was still part of the United Church of Christ, so in a very real way we have a strong connection to the very first German settlers and the very first Protestant Good Friday and Easter services held in New Braunfels in 1845.

He also was active in many other ways in the community: helped found the West Texas Orphan Asylum, first president of the Comal Agricultural Society, experimented with wheat, first Probate Judge of Comal County, and first president of the Demokratischer Verein, a club founded to foster political unity among German immigrants. He eventually moved to Mexico under a cloud which you can read about on this link

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fer04>

Holy Week & Easter

Seder Meal on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 p.m. We will hold our annual Seder Meal on April 19th at 6:30 p.m. We need volunteers to help with the food. We also need people to sign up to attend so we know how many to set up for. There will be a freewill offering to defray costs. There will be a sign up sheet to both volunteer and to attend. The main course will be either chicken casserole or lamb stew.



Easter Lilies & Monarch Butterflies You are invited to bring an Easter lily Easter Sunday for the sanctuary. You can give one in honor or memory of someone. Write down the wording on a slip of paper in the narthex so Pastor Scott can put it in the bulletin the way you want it to read. You can also sponsor a Monarch Butterfly in honor or memory of someone. The cost is \$10. Again, fill out a slip of paper with the wording.

Easter Sunday Worship

Early Service at Slumber Falls Vesper Point at 8 a.m. Join us for this short worship service in the midst of the beauty of Slumber Falls, with the Guadalupe River murmuring in the background. In case of rain the service will be held on the covered basketball court at Slumber Falls.

Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt After the early service at Slumber Falls, approximately 9 a.m., we will gather in the fellowship hall for an Easter Breakfast. Following breakfast there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Easter Sunday Communion Service at 10:30 a.m. This service is completely different from the Slumber Falls service. Come celebrate the resurrection. Communion will be served and the service concludes with a Monarch Butterfly release.

Bunco Friday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m.



Join us for a night of food, fellowship, and Bunco on Friday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the church! Bunco is a fun, exciting game and easy to learn. No experience is required. Please bring your favorite soup, salad, bread, or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. Each player should bring \$5 for cash prizes for the winners. Please sign up in the narthex. Questions? Call Dan or Vicky Geisler at 817-925-3222 or email at geislerv@sbcglobal.net.

April Birthdays

4-4 Valerie Oates 4-6 Jan Hutchings 4-15 Camdyn Martinez 4-21 Taylor Leonhardt
4-23 Michelle Perry-Clark

If your birthday is not on here please let Pastor Scott Know so we can get it in for next year.

April Theology of Place Activities

Theology of Place Event - Star Gazing Party Saturday, April 27th at 6:30 p.m.

Joe and Mikki Ward would like to invite you to our home in Seguin on April 27 to look at the marvels of the night sky. We will provide snacks and beverages but if you would like to bring something, feel free to do so. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets for your comfort. All ages are welcome. We will gather starting around 6:30PM with the sun setting at 8:06. Weather permitting, we will have the telescopes and binoculars ready to see star clusters, nebulas and galaxies, oh my! We can begin identifying the night sky as the daylight fades. We'll identify constellations and share stories of Leo, Gemini, Orion and Ursa Major from different cultures of the world. We have 7 acres so if you would like to bring a tent or a camper to spend the night, you're more than welcome to.

We look forward to seeing you,
Joe & Mikki Ward 235 Spur Trail Seguin, TX 78155
830-305-0214 (Joe) or 830-305-9525 (Mikki)



Worship Service at Landa Park on Sunday, April 28th at 10:30 a.m.

Don't show up to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 28th! Instead, come to Landa Park. We have reserved Pavilion #6 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take Landa Park Dr right to the large parking lot near the wading pool and the Founder's Oak. Here is a link to a map of the park with the pavilions identified <http://www.nbtexas.org/1184/Landa-Park-Map>. There are plenty of picnic tables but you may also want to bring a folding chair for greater comfort. We will have our annual **Blessing of the Animals** Service here in park! Bring your pets on a leash or in a cage or bring a photo of a pet past or present for the blessing.

Instead of a Potluck and Program we will have a **cookout** there at the pavilion. Stay tuned for further details! **Instead of the program you are encouraged to stay around after the meal and enjoy the park.** Here are some things you can do: 1. Those who are able are invited to hike the Panther Canyon Trail. 2. Ride the train around the park. This one and a half mile journey takes about 15 minutes, cost is \$4. 3. Swim in the Olympic pool or spring fed pool, cost \$7 or \$8 depending on age. 4. Walk the Arboretum Trail. 5. Miniature golf, cost is \$3.

Did you know that Joseph Landa bought the property in 1860 and that this is where the park gets its name from? Landa died in 1896. After his death the International & Great Northern railroad built a spur line to the park and people came from all over Texas to picnic and swim in the spring fed river and lake. A bathhouse and hotel were built on the property in the early 1900's. Harry Landa sold the property ten years after his mother's death, as stipulated in the will. The Jarrett Investment Company bought it but experienced financial difficulties during the Great Depression. The property was closed up and surrounded with barbed wire in 1933. In a bond election citizens voted three to one to save the park, and on May 25, 1936, the city purchased 128 acres that included the headwaters, adjoining springs and property, and the De Paw Farm for \$80,000. After the purchase, on May 30, 1936, more than a thousand citizens volunteered to clean up the park, plant flowers, and begin renovation of facilities. Thanks to this foresight Landa Park is still being enjoyed by visitors today. Landa Park is the crown jewel of New Braunfels. What would the city be like if a subdivision were there today?

Memorial Service for Benny Harst Saturday, April 13th at 2 p.m. at Faith UCC

Bernhard (Bennie) Harst died peacefully at home, surrounded by his large extended family. He is survived by his partner, Dawn Horten; six sons, Bart, Rudi, John, Tom, Arnold and Paul and their families; a sister, Desiree Lewis Harst, of The Hague, Netherlands and a host of nieces, nephews and friends throughout the Netherlands, England, Germany and Belgium.



He was born in Jakarta, on the island of Java in what is now Indonesia on January 28, 1924. He was raised in the pre-WWII colonial Dutch culture, as was his late wife of 54 years, Nell Velt Harst (Nelly) who preceded him in death in 2002. They lived on the islands until the family moved to the Netherlands in 1951 after the Indonesian Revolution changed his life in many ways. In 1957 the family emigrated to their adopted hometown of New Braunfels, sponsored by the late Rev. Carl and Della Burkle of First Protestant United Church of Christ (UCC).

Bennie Harst lived a large life that touched the lives of many with his wisdom, curiosity, love and countless acts of kindness. He was a man of deep faith that translated into a life of service and good works; Bennie was committed to improving his community with simple and direct actions.

Upon arrival in New Braunfels, Bennie accepted the only employment available at the time as a floor sweeper in the local textile mill and simultaneously as the part time janitor at the church. Within a year he was promoted at the mill to operate two weaving loom alleys, at a time when most weavers were only responsible for one alley of looms.

In 1966, because of his Dutch health care administration office experience, the late Elmo Fischer employed him to assist with the increasing bookkeeping demands at the Eden Home for the Aged. Later he became the Texas state licensed assistant administrator for Kenneth Triesh at Eden, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. As assistant administrator at the Eden Home, he oversaw the evolution of the institution into the region's first skilled nursing care facility, and later added the first Medicare certified rehabilitation center, Bihl Rehab Center. He took particular pride in building the independent living cottages at Eden Home; fittingly, he would live his final years in independence and dignity in these cottages.

He worked for many years with River Garden, a life skills school for special needs adults. Bennie's volunteer service included work at the New Braunfels Food Bank and the Comal County Senior Citizens Thrift Store. During the youth of his six sons, Bennie led inspiring Sunday School classes at First Protestant UCC. In any setting, Bennie was an irrepressible story-teller; his circular narratives, twisting from humor to pathos, crisscrossed Texas, Northern Europe, South East Asia in tales that wound through his unique experience of the twentieth century.

Along with visits to children and grandchildren around the US, his love of travel took him to Mexico exploring the people and the culture as well as return visits to Indonesia and the Netherlands. He will be missed by the many who knew and loved him, including his faith community, fellow residents of Eden Hill, and his Thursday morning taco group at Nopalitos cafe. **In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Faith United Church.**

One Great Hour of Sharing

Welcome to Oebaki Oebaki (pronounced Oe-ba-key) is a small village in West Timor, Indonesia. It is considered one of the poorest communities in the country. The prefix “Oe” means water, but drought has stolen this town’s identity. Poverty abounds, and families struggle to feed their children.

Imagine having a garden, but not being able to feed your family, or digging into the sand of a dry river bed in search of drinking water. Imagine your child whose been diagnosed with stunted growth, a preventable early childhood condition with lifelong consequences.



Now imagine the world the way God intends. God imagines a world where all are fed, everyone has access to clean water, and all children grow up healthy. The author of Ephesians writes, “Now to God be the glory, who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine...” (Ephesians 3:20).

Your gifts to One Great Hour of sharing help make this world look more like the world God imagines. In Oebaki, your gifts help support well-trained savings and loan groups that allow families to buy resilient vegetable seeds for farming, yarn for weaving stunningly beautiful traditional fabric, and egg-laying chickens for a sustainable source of protein essential to prevent child stunting. These enterprises produce excess goods that families sell to generate income.

Today in Oebaki, those who once struggled during the dry season and drought can now maintain a diversified diet by eating stored root vegetables from the last harvest, supplemented with greens purchased at the market.

Nelci Tlonaen works hard in Oebaki with her husband and three children—two in elementary school and one entering high school. Despite the current drought, she feels confident that her family will persevere. “Even now, I can afford clothes and food for my children. I don’t have any difficulty paying for their school.”

That’s what happens when we imagine the world as God intends. Through your gifts, a new reality exists for families in Oebaki and around the world. Please give generously!

There are special offering envelopes in the pews and on the literature table. The official day for receiving the OGHS offering is Sunday March 31st but you can contribute any time.

New Community Substance Abuse Group to Use Our Facility

Come to the River, substance abuse recovery program, will meet twice a week in our narthex from 6 - 9:30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays beginning April st. This new non-profit hopes to have their own building some day until then they will meet here and on Fridays at Casa Hermosa UMC.. They will be providing services not currently provided by any other program in New Braunfels.

Heart of Texas Association News

We are trying something new at our **spring Association Meeting** -- offering the option for people to attend by Zoom, a video and audio conference website similar to Skype but with the capacity for several people to participate. The meeting will be at **St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi on Saturday, May 4, at 11 am** (10:30 registration for those attending in person). We are preparing for the possibility of having an Ecclesiastical Council for an ordination candidate, meaning that it is very important for us to have a quorum (attendance from a majority of our churches) at the meeting in person or electronically. Of course, we encourage people to be there in person and also to plan to enjoy some time in the Corpus Christi area (on a great weekend to be on the beach). However, we also recognize that the distance will be a problem for some. Anticipating this situation, we intentionally set up our Association bylaws to allow electronic attendance. We will be working over the next few weeks to set up a meeting that will use Zoom, and are planning to send out a letter with instructions in early April. We also anticipate scheduling a couple of times when people can try a trial login to Zoom to connect with our meeting website to be sure it works for those who will be using it. We will need churches who will be having people attend by Zoom to let us know and to try the login in advance. Let's work together to help this happen! It will be a big and good step for our Association that can enable us to continue to have good participation with our long distances.



Heart of Texas Association.

Our friends at United Christian in Austin have called an interim Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes, who will be beginning her ministry on May 1. Laura served churches in Danville, California and in San Mateo, California before moving back to her hometown in Dallas, where she has served more recently in interim ministry. United has had a thorough and intentional search process for their interim, with their excellent staff and gifted group of members who serve elsewhere in ministry leading the church during the search. Many of us, myself included, were delighted to meet Laura at the Clergy Retreat in February. We join United in welcoming her to the

Our South Central Conference Annual Meeting this year will be in New Orleans, always a treat to visit, on Friday May 31- Saturday June 1st. The SCC gathering will be at the Jung Hotel, near downtown and the French Quarter. The theme is "Resurrection Insurrection" with Ron Buford as the guest speaker. Ron currently serves as pastor of the Congregational Church of Sunnyvale, California and was the leader of the God is Still Speaking campaign in the UCC. He gave our ministers a real gift as our Clergy Retreat leader and speaker, with his gracious, articulate, and engaging presence. I hope many of you will go to New Orleans to hear him, to join in fellowship and worship, and to enjoy! Registration information, along with clergy boundary training information, can be found at <https://sccucc.org/2019-scc-annual-meeting-registration/>.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

April Worship Assistant List

4/7 Liturgist: Nicolle Clark Council Rep & Acolyte: Jason Chapel Greeter: Michelle Perry
Hospitality: Jan Ziegler AV: David Reed Communion: Sheila Angerer
Church School: Joe Ward & Kim Beauchamp Nursery Lana Spiess
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Sheila Angerer; Michelle Perry; Nicolle Clark

4/14 Liturgist: Karen Dietz Council Rep & Acolyte: Sam Ward Greeter: Mikki Ward
Hospitality: Mary Jean Owen AV: Joe Ward Nursery (volunteer needed)
Church School: Jim & Chrissy Gossett & Will Gossett
Ushers: Sam Ward; Mikki Ward; Karen Dietz; David Bizer

4/21 Liturgist: (youth) Council Rep & Acolyte: Valerie Oates Greeter: (youth)
Hospitality: Vicky Geisler AV: (youth) Church School: (TBA) Nursery (volunteer needed)
Ushers: (youth)

4/28 **(Service is in Landa Park)** Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow
Council Rep & Acolyte: Bob Manning Greeter: Julia Allison Hospitality: (cookout)
AV: Tim Marlow Church School: (no church school) Nursery (no nursery)
Ushers: Bob & Shirley Manning; Jennifer Marlow; Julia Allison

5/5 Liturgist: Donna Myer Council Rep & Acolyte: Mike Ziegler Greeter: Michelle Perry
Hospitality: Nicolle Clark AV: Joe Ward Church School: Jan Ziegler & Mikki Ward
Nursery (volunteer needed) Ushers: Mike Ziegler; Mikki Ward; Nicolle Clark; Michelle Perry

5/12 Liturgist: Mikki Ward Council Rep & Acolyte: Carol Cisco-Martinez
Greeter: Eddie Martinez Hospitality: Kathy Leber AV: Joe Ward
Church School: Jim & Chrissy Gossett Nursery Carol Sisco-Martinez
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Richard & Kathy Leber; Mikki Ward

If you cannot serve on the date(s) shown, please try to find a sub. If that is not possible, please 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

7th Annual Alligator Creek Clean Up Saturday, April 6th at 9 a.m. Here's a link for info and registration <http://geronimocreek.org/Register.aspx>

Senior Serve-A-Thon Saturday, April 13th. Join others in the community serving seniors by helping with landscaping, clean-up at seniors homes. Meet at 7:45 at the Senior Center on Landa Street. Breakfast and lunch will be provided and a T-shirt if you register early enough. You will be put on a team and given a work site where you will spend the morning. Lunch back at the center from noon to 1 p.m. Contact Katny at 830-629-4547 for info. Ask Pastor Scott for a Volunteer form to fill out and send in if you are interested.