

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

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter
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My sabbatical is now only 6 weeks away! The first week will be spent hiking the St. Cuthbert Pilgrimage trail between Melrose, Scotland and Lindisfarne on the English west coast (62 mi).

Pilgrimage is an ancient and widespread practice. In the book of Psalms, there is a collection of Pilgrim Psalms found from 120-134. The Jewish

people would sing these as they walked to Jerusalem to the temple. They are called "Song of Assents" because Jerusalem was on a high plateau and so you "went up to Jerusalem." Psalm 122:1-4 says, **"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!' Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. Jerusalem - built as a city that is bound firmly together. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,..."** It is likely Mary, Joseph and Jesus sang this psalm on their way to Jerusalem.

I can remember reading the Canterbury Tales in high school. In Chaucer's tale some 30 characters journey to Canterbury to visit the martyr Thomas Becket's shrine and grave. They all came from different backgrounds and all have their own reasons for going, some better than others. Among the group were religious types like a monk, nun, and priest. There was a soldier, a knight who had fought in the crusades. There was a miller and the knights' servant. There was a merchant, a sailor, a philosopher, someone from a college, a physician and a lawyer. From the 6th century through the Middle Ages right up to the Reformation in the early 16th century all kinds of people made pilgrimages to various cathedrals, shrines and holy places in the British Isles. The Protestant Reformation put an end to all this.

Pilgrimages have staged a comeback in more modern times. In Spain over 275,000 people a year travel Camino de Santiago, one of the most famous pilgrimage routes the world. Of course you can hike a pilgrim trail to just enjoy the scenery or to be a spiritual tourist. T.S. Eliot speaks of a more profound reason to visit ancient shrines in his Four Quartets. He writes: **" If you came this way, Taking any route, starting from anywhere, At any time or at any season, It would always be the same: you would have to put off Sense and notion. You are not here to verify, Instruct yourself, or inform curiosity Or carry report. You are here to kneel Where prayer has been valid.**

In Scotland and England I will be visiting ancient Christian sites, some from as far back as the 6th century. I'll be walking on the same ground ancient saints walked. I'll visit ancient shrines where saints bones lie. Hopefully, with the Holy Spirit's help, I'll do so with a sense of **"kneeling where prayer has been valid."**

Family Promise Guests Arrive July 14!! You Are Needed

Sunday evening, July 14, our Family Promise guests will arrive at Baese Hall for a two week stay with our congregation. We will provide a safe place for these families to stay, showing the gracious hospitality that we are called to share as members of Christ's church.

This year several members who usually volunteer to host will be out of town or otherwise unable to participate. That means others of our congregation can be especially helpful volunteers this month. Here are ways you can help:

1. Sign up for one or two overnights , arriving at 7 after dinner and leaving by 7 in the morning as guests return to work or the day center, checking the on-line sign up for available nights

2. Arrive at Baese Hall around 5:30 any evening to entertain the children or visit with guests as dinner is prepared. A fun craft is always popular with the children.

3. Arrive at Baese Hall about 6:00 after the meal to entertain the children, visit with family members until bedtime or until the overnight volunteer/s arrive about 7 p.m.

4. Bring a board game or activity you feel children would enjoy, marked with your name

5. Sign up to bring items for families to use to fix bag lunches: lunch meats, cheese, peanut butter, cookies, fruit drinks, individual snack bags, bottled water.

6. Come early on the final Sunday to help pack up beds, sort sheets and bedding into bags for Faith Church members to take home to launder, clean kitchen, and set up for after-church pot luck

7. Take home a bag of laundry on the last Sunday to return for our next hosting opportunity in December.

Remember to ask Michelle or Karen if you have any questions about how you can be the most helpful.

We will be happy to share ideas and appropriate ways to interact with our guests.





Through the month of July we will be raising funds for Tina Martinez's new house! Tina was born and raised here in New Braunfels. She is a mother of two, has seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren! Some of them will be helping Tina with the required sweat equity hours.



Tina is looking forward to her new home. She says, "The home where I live now is not in good condition, but I live there. There's no other way. I survive." Some of the conditions she faces is the floor that is falling through, electrical issues and lack of insulation or heating and cooling. "My floors are going down, I just put boards and nail them all around. When the winter comes it gets cold. It's very cold. I keep my self warm with the stove. The heaters I can't trust with the electricity...It happened already two times it caught fire...so I stopped putting

heaters. I just use my gas stove and I managed."

Tina's face lights up when she imagines living in her new Habitat House. "I'll be safe and secure knowing that I don't have to worry about nothing anymore. My favorite room will be the living room, looking out the window and adoring it. I'd really like to be outside looking in...looking at my house through the outside just adoring it for hours, walking around my house, going inside the living rooms, my rooms,"

Construction on Tina's new dream home is estimated to begin this Autumn. Contribute now and help make Tina's dream a reality! Simply make out a check to the church and write Habitat on the memo line and drop it in the offering.

Breakfast at Krauses & Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 27th

You are invited to join Pastor Scott at Krause's for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday July 27th (indoors). After breakfast you are encouraged to head outside and enjoy the Farmer's Market. Enjoy the free music, buy local produce, talk to local producers and just enjoy the scene! Here is a link to their website. You can see who the vendors are <http://nbfarmersmarket.com/> This is part of our continuing Theology of Place series. If you've never been to our local Farmer's Market you are missing out on a great experience. First 5 individuals or families at the breakfast get a SPECIAL surprise! There is a signup sheet on the kiosk so we have an idea of how many are coming and we can maybe reserve a table.



July Birthdays

July 4 Chrissy Gossett
July 10 Karen Kramm
July 13 Will Gossett
July 21 Shirley Manning
July 9 Kai Perry-Clark
July 13 Adam Gossett
July 20 Mary Jean Owen
July 23 Robynne Martinez

July Calendar

July 2 - 4 Pastor Scott out of town
July 7 Communion Sunday

July 9 7 p.m. Church Council meets

July 14 Sunday Worship / Family Promise families arrive

July 19 1 - 4 p.m. SOS Food Bank:

Volunteers needed

July 21 Sunday Worship

July 23 Clergy Jam and Bread (Burton)

July 28 Sunday Worship & Potluck / Family
Promise families leave

July 31 August newsletter deadline



Southern Women's Retreat: October 18-20, 2019

United Church of Christ 2019 Southern Region
Women's Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference
Center in North Carolina.

This is the Official Invitation and Opening for
Registration for the 2019 UCC Southern Region
Women's Retreat (SRWR) – hosted by the
Southern Conference and planned by the 2019
SRWR Planning Team.

Here is the link to more information and
registration: <https://sccucc.org/7686-2/>



July Worship Assistant List



7/7 Liturgist: Donna Myer Acolyte & Council Rep:
Sam Ward Greeter: Joe Ward Hospitality: Karen Dietz
Church School: Out for Summer Nursery: TBA
Usher: Sam Ward; Mikki Ward; Dan & Vicky Geisler
AV: Joe Ward Communion: Mikki Ward

7/14 Liturgist: Mikki Ward Acolyte & Council Rep: Valerie Oates Greeter: David Bizer
Hospitality: Vicky Geisler Church School: Out for Summer Nursery: TBA
Usher: Valerie Oates; Mikki Ward; David Bizer; Dan Geisler AV: Joe Ward

7/21 Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte & Council Rep: Mike Ziegler Greeter: Karen Kramm
Hospitality: Julia Allison Church School: Out for Summer Nursery: TBA
Usher: Mike & Jan Ziegler; Curt Leonhardt; Julia Allison; AV: Kyle Kramm

7/28 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte & Council Rep: Bob Manning Greeter: Sandy Ludwig
Hospitality: Eddie & Carol Sisco-Martinez Church School: Out for Summer Nursery: TBA
Usher: Bob Manning; Ralph Ludwig; Eddie & Carol Sisco-Martinez AV: Tim Marlow

8/4 Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez
Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Nicolle Clark Church School: Out for Summer
Nursery: TBA Usher: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Nicolle Clark; Julia Allison; Michelle Perry
AV: Mikki Ward Communion: Sheila Angerer

8/11 Liturgist: Nicolle Clark Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel Greeter: Bob Manning
Hospitality: Chrissy Gossett Church School: Out for Summer Nursery: TBA
Usher: Jason Chapel; Will Gossett; Adam Gossett; Jim Gossett AV: Quinn Perry

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.

Potluck & Program on Sunday July 28th



Our 4th Sunday Potluck Theology of Place Series continues on Sunday, July 28th. The program is not lined up yet but we hope to have someone come and talk to us about Hispanic history here in New Braunfels. Given this you might consider bringing foods with a Hispanic flare.

Heart of Texas Association News

Two beloved and respected friends in Christ have passed away recently in the Heart of Texas Association. As I write, many of us are **grieving the loss of Jan Trimmer on June 14th, and we mourn the loss of Rev. Ray Bizer** on May 15th. The lives of both Jan and Ray will have been celebrated in services in June -- at Hope United and Friedens Washington for Jan and at Faith UCC New Braunfels for Ray.

Jan, whose husband Ron is the pastor of Hope United in Georgetown and the former pastor of Friedens Church of Washington, served the church faithfully in many ways, both at Hope and Friedens. She grew up both in Houston and in Washington, and was confirmed and married to Ron at Friedens. She and Ron adopted their sons Ben and Aaron while they were still in Washington, and moved with them to Georgetown with a commitment of faith to start Hope United. Jan was a dedicated elementary school teacher for many years in Navasota and Georgetown, retiring this past spring as her long and courageous battle with cancer was coming to an end. With her family, we invite those who wish to give a memorial to Jan's life to send it to Hope United.

Ray was the Pastor Emeritus of Faith UCC New Braunfels and the Director Emeritus of Slumber Falls Camp, serving in ministry for 74 years with his wife, Emma Lou (who passed away in 2017) as a faithful and creative partner. In that work, he touched lives in countless ways. Many of us have stayed in the Bizer Retreat Center at Slumber Falls, one of the fruits of Ray's ministry there. With his family, we invite those who wish to give a memorial to Ray's life to send it to Faith UCC, Eden Hill Communities, Slumber Falls Camp, or the charity of your choice.



The ordination of CJ Wood at St. Paul UCC in Corpus Christi on Sunday afternoon, June 9th, was a truly joyous event in the life of the Association. CJ, who has served in ministry for several years as a pastoral associate, missionary to India, and hospital chaplain, came to us as she completed a long journey to ordination. Many friends from different parts of that journey joined in the celebration as she made the commitments of ordination and was consecrated into the ordained ministry of Jesus Christ. Congratulations, CJ!

We also rejoice with the reception by our Committee on Ministry during its June meeting of Billie Watts in the Privilege of Call process and Kerry Kirtley as a Member in Discernment, as well as the licensing of Eric Dehmer as the pastor and teacher of Friedens Church of Washington. All three come to us from the United Methodist Church. Billie and Kerry are both graduates of Perkins Divinity School, are members of Bethany Congregational in San Antonio, live in Boerne, and are working to start a church in Boerne. Many of us already know Eric as a colleague, and we welcome him to licensed ministry among us.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister