April 2018 Faith UCC 970 N. Loop 337 New Braunfels, TX 78130 Glimpses of Faith Newsletter
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Last Sunday in John 12 Jesus said "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain but if it dies it bears much fruit." This Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday

and next Sunday is Easter, the celebration of the resurrection. I find myself pondering a question, "Did Jesus KNOW he would be resurrected?" The Gospel writers often seem to say that he did, but then again they are writing with the benefit of hindsight and to some degree reflect the Christian orthodoxy of their times but I wonder....

The gospel writers tell us that Jesus foresaw his death, even his death by crucifixion. Certainly crucifixion was a common way to die in the ancient Roman world. Certainly Jesus challenged the religious authorities of his day and yes, even the Roman authorities with all his talk of a "kingdom", so he might well have foreseen that they would want to kill him.

Then we have the agony in the garden when Jesus prays that "the cup" of his coming death be taken from him but not my will by thy will be done." This causes me again to wonder if Jesus knew he would be resurrected. It would take some of the sting out of his coming death if he was confident he would be raised to new life. Even so, death on a cross was a horrible way to die and Jesus could simply wish there was another way.

Then we have those heart rending words of Jesus form the cross, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me." Was that the pain speaking or did Jesus feel this was THE END, not a prelude to a new beginning?

We'll never know for sure whether or not Jesus knew he would be resurrected. For me, if he didn't know he would be resurrected it makes his willingness to face the cross even more powerful. Paul's words in Philippians 2:8 come to mind, "being born in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross." Jesus lived and died for the kingdom of God. He lived in hope. This hope helped sustain him to the very end. Here we pick up Paul's words again from Philippians 2:9-11, "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 every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

I pray that you will have a truly blessed Holy Week and Easter!

Pastor Scott

## 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. We are looking for volunteers to help with food and cleanup. 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.

## FAITH CHURH SPRING FLING - FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP ON APRIL 28TH



Plan to join a Faith UCC fun, food and fellowship time at Eden Hill Pinnacle on Saturday, April 28 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Bob and Shirley Manning are hosting. Faith has a history of these fellowship celebrations and it is time for another. Drinks and main entree will be provided. After Easter sign-up sheets will be posted to register and designate a choice of side dish. MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

### FAMILY PROMISE BED RACE APRIL 14TH!

This major annual fund raising event is Saturday, **April, 14th at Church Hill Middle School.** Faith Church youth are entering a bed race team. In addition to donations to the youth team, there are **raffle tickets available** for 5 separate drawings. They are: Schlitterbahn Passes

(\$440 value); Coffee Crawl (\$330 value); Queen sized handmade quilt (\$500 value); Gaston spa, jewelry, Brauntex package (\$440 value); Outdoorsman package (\$478 value). Tickets are available for \$5 each or \$20 for 5. Winners need not be present for drawing. **Tickets are available before and after worship. See Bob Manning.** Thank you on behalf of homeless families served by Family Promise.



Our youth will be racing in the Bed Race again this year to help raise funds for Family Promise. **Our team' name is "Not Fast but Furious**". In case you missed it it is a movie reference. You can donate to the team in one of two ways. You can write a check and write BED RACE on the memo line and drop it in the Sunday offering or you can go to the following link and donate online



# Heart of Texas Spring Meeting to Assemble Back Bay Hygiene Kits On April 21st

The Heart of Texas Association will hold its spring meeting at Weimar UCC. After the business meeting those gathered will assemble hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Ms. The kits will include: The kits include **new 16**" **x 28**"

(inch) hand towels, washcloths, wide tooth combs, toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, bars of bath-sized soap in wrappers, plastic soap containers, solid or roll-on deodorant, plastic disposable razors, spray insect repellent, travel-sized bottles of hand sanitizer, and one gallon re-sealable plastic bags.

If you would like to help with this project by donating the above items please bring them to the church beginning Easter Sunday. You can place them at the foot of the cross. Let's make a BIG pile!

Just in case you didn't know our church is well represented in the Heart of Texas Association. Janet Sherman is the current moderator and Joe Ward is the treasurer! Before moving Hulen Brown was the secretary!

The image above is Back Bay Mission's new logo.

## **April Birthdays**

- 4-4 Valerie Oates
- 4-6 Jan Hutchings
- 4-11 Albert Hennig
- 4-15 Camdyn Martinez
  - 4-21 Taylor Leonhardt
  - 4-23 Michelle Perry-Clark



If your birthday or someone you know is not on this list please let the pastor know so we can get them on for next year!

# Blessing of the Animals Service on April 22, Earth Day

You are invited to bring your favorite pet whether it be an aardvark, hedgehog, dog, cat, fish or your ant farm! Please be sure they are



on a leash or in a cage! If your pet is too hyper to bring because of the crowd or presence of other animals or if it has passed on, you can bring a photo. The service will be held in Baese Hall at the usual time. There will be water available and treats for the dogs and cats. The service itself will be a celebration of God's amazing cration and an exploration of our call to be stewards of it. Joe and Mikki Ward will have some milkweed plants available for people to take home. Not only are these beautiful but they are the only plant that monarch butterflies lay their eggs on.

## **Bunco Night on Friday, April13th**

Join us for a night of food, fellowship, and bunco! Bunco is a fun, exciting game and easy to learn. No experience is required. Please bring your favorite dish to share - main dish, salad, bread, or dessert. 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.



# LEAP Emphasis and Fund Hamburger Raiser on April 29th

You will have a chance to hear about how our LEAP (Literacy Education for Adults Program) is going during the mission moment on April 15th and April 29th. On Sunday April 29th after church there will be a hamburger cook out. Donations accepted for the LEAP. Come on out for some great homemade burgers with all the fixings and

support a great cause. This mission project was started by our church to fill a real need in this community.

#### **Heart of Texas Association News**

Our spring Heart of Texas Association Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 21st at Weimar UCC. The meeting will begin with worship at 11 am (with registration starting at 10:30). The plan is to eat an early lunch, then have a business meeting and program focused on putting together hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission. We will also learn more about the current work of the Mission -- in particular, their programs to help people become self sustaining and their welcome to all in need. Our "kit-making" isn't meant to take the place of what our churches are doing for the South Central Conference Annual Meeting. Instead, we encourage everyone to bring supplies (listed below) for the hygiene kits that we will assemble together at the meeting for an extra-generous donation from Heart of Texas. We will use whatever supplies our church representatives bring, then use the meeting offering and match it as needed from Association funds to complete the kits that are assembled. The kits include new 16" x 28" (inch) hand towels, washcloths, wide tooth combs, toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, bars of bath-sized soap in wrappers, plastic soap containers, solid or roll-on deodorant, plastic disposable razors, spray insect repellent, travel-sized bottles of hand sanitizer, and one gallon resealable plastic bags. Bring what you can get a good deal on or what people from your church would like to buy and donate. We will do this kit-making "potluck," see how it works, and have fun putting them together.

This spring meeting is being hosted by the Brazos Valley group of churches within the Association, with several churches helping. We do want all of you to know that Weimar is currently undergoing a major kitchen and fellowship hall remodel. They anticipate being ready for the meeting, but if that does not happen, Friends Congregational Church in College Station is ready to be the back-up meeting place. Plan to come to Weimar. We will let our churches know as soon as possible if we have to change locations.

Also, we hope you will plan to come and also to help out as we host the South Central Conference Annual Meeting on June 1-2 at beautiful Camp Allen near Navasota. Our Association planning committee has been working for several months to put together a meeting with a "Gospel Bound" theme that will celebrate Conference Minister Don Longbottom's installation and explore in more depth the gospel-inspired vision and goals of the Conference. Registration information should be on the South Central Conference website as you read this. We will be letting our churches know at our spring Association meeting how everyone can help.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ at Redeemer UCC in Zuehl are preparing for the coming retirement of their pastor, Lee Zillman, who announced his retirement at the congregation's Annual Meeting at the end of January. Lee does not have a date set yet for the end of his ministry at Redeemer, but the church is beginning their preparations for that major change as they go into an interim period. Our prayers go with Redeemer and with Lee. We also celebrate the Redeemer Edge youth group and all of the youth groups who worked on giving projects for the Souper Bowl of Caring. On February 4th, The Edge youth led in worship, showing a video about the Souper Bowl of Caring, and then provided a wonderful lunch for the church. They raised about \$600 for the Christian Cupboard food bank in Seguin. Terrific!

Blessings in Christ, Liz Nash, Association Minister