

March 2019

Faith UCC

970 N. Loop 337

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Glimpses of Faith Newsletter

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Jesus gives the following advice to his closest followers, **"Take nothing with you for your journey: no staff, no bag, no bread or money, not even an extra tunic."** (Luke 9:3) This is the theme setting Scripture passage in this year's UCC Lenten Devotional from the God is Still Speaking writing group.



This is pretty tough advice to follow. As you know I'm planning on spending a month in Scotland and along the English border. I purchased a 35 liter backpack to take **ALL** my belongs for the month. We'll see how that turns out! Most people take way too much when they travel. When you do it's a pain to haul around . People fall into this trap trying to plan for every possible contingency.

Noted travel host Rick Steves offers the following advice, " Don't pack for the worst-case scenario. Pack for the best-case scenario and simply buy yourself out of any jams. Bring layers rather than a heavy coat. **Think in terms of what you can do without — not what will be handy on your trip. When in doubt, leave it out..... Whether you're traveling for three weeks or three months, pack exactly the same"**

I wonder if we can apply this advice to our own physical and spiritual journeys? These words come from the introduction to the UCC Lenten Devotion, "Jesus gave remarkable advice about what to take on physical or spiritual journey. **'Take nothing on the journey with you.' What does an unencumbered journey look like? Can we dare to reflect on suffering without our baggage, without our frameworks? Does it mean that all we think we need, but really don't, is burdening us? Do we dare look at our journeys anew for these few days of Lent, without suitcases? Let's find out together."**

The intro then ends with this prayer, **"Jesus, your words startle. Do you really think we can live with fewer props? Can you liberate us from luggage for Lent? Amen,"**

There are 20 copies of the UCC Lenten Devotional in the narthex. Lent starts March 6th with Ash Wednesday. Pick up a copy for your journey through Lent. First come first served. There are also Lenten Coin folders and copies of the Lenten Study book available for purchase (\$10).

Lent/Easter Schedule

General Spiritual Disciplines for Lent

- Pick up a copy of the UCC Lenten Devotion "Take Nothing with You" and do the daily readings.
- Pick up a copy of the Lenten Coin Bank. Say the prayer each day and deposit a coin. This offering will go to our designated Lenten Offering, perhaps our Kiva Micro-Lending fund.
- Pastor Scott will set up a book table in the narthex. Borrow a book and read it.
- Participate in the Lenten Soup & Study "liturgy of the ordinary: sacred practices in everyday life" Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m. starting March 13th - April 16th



Ash Wednesday Service Join us on Wednesday, **March 6 at 7 p.m.** for a communion and imposition of ashes service This is a great way to begin your Lenten journey.



Good Friday Seder Meal Join us for this annual meal on Friday, **April 19th at 6:30 p.m.** We will have a lamb stew, with a chicken option for those that don't want lamb. We will explore the Exodus story through an abbreviated Jewish Seder liturgy. Please sign up in advance so we know how many to set up for. You are invited to make a donation to cover the cost of the meal.

Easter Sunday

Early Service at Slumber Falls Camp We will gather at Vesper Point for an early service at **8 a.m.** This is beautiful way to begin your observance of Easter. In case of rain we will gather in the covered basketball court at the camp.



Easter Breakfast Once the service has ended at Slumber Falls we will return to the church fellowship hall for an Easter breakfast and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The breakfast will start around 9 a.m. If you didn't join us at the camp for the 8 a.m. service you can still join us for the breakfast and Egg Hunt.

Easter Communion Service & Butterfly Release This will take place at our usual worship time of 10:30 a.m. Note: This is a totally different service from the 8 a.m. service.

March Theology of Place - Lindheimer Home & Native Plants

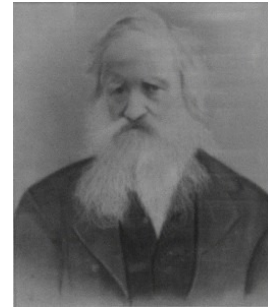
Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m.



We continue our exploration of Theology of Place with a guided tour of the Lindheimer Home (491 Comal Ave) & Garden. The suggested donation is \$1.50. The tour will last about 45-60 minutes. Please sign up in advance so we have a general idea of how many are going.

Ferdinand Lindheimer, after a very eventful life that included

political activism in Germany and getting forced out of the country and shipwreck came to New Braunfels in 1844. He became a leading botanist, collecting over 1,500 specimens over a 13 year period and having 41 plants, bushes and trees named after him. He is known as the Father of Texas Botany.



Before and After Options: You can just meet us at the Lindheimer home but for those who wish you are invited to join Pastor Scott at **Naeglin's Bakery for coffee at 10:15 a.m.** Naeglin's is the oldest bakery in Texas, founded in 1868! There is a marvelous mural of Lindheimer opposite the bakery.

After the tour of the Lindheimer home those who wish can have **lunch together at Krause's Restaurant**. Following lunch **Mike Ziegler is offering a guided tour of the New Braunfels Art Gallery** downtown. Mike Ziegler and Alice Chapel have both had pieces displayed here!

4th Sunday Potluck on Sunday, March 24th



Join us after church for our 4th Sunday potluck. Since the emphasis this month is on flora and fauna you might think about bringing a salad to share, both as a main course or side dish. Bonus points if you get the ingredients from local producers at the farmer's market!

Deedy Wright from the Native Plant Society of Texas, will present the program following lunch. Because of Texas' size and geographical diversity there are over 5,000 plants native to Texas in the state! The Native Plant Society of Texas seeks to protect our state's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations. Why grow native plants? Native plants are drought tolerant and conserve water. They provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife. They don't need special pampering or fertilizing. They help maintain biological diversity. Here is a link to the local chapter

<https://npsot.org/wp/newbraunfels/welcome/latest-news-and-stories/>



Our Prayers Go Out to the Remmler Family

Norma M Remmler passed away on February 16, 2019, in New Braunfels, Texas. She was born September 9, 1921, in Bracken, Texas to parents Adolf Moehrig and Dorothea (nee) Krueger. On July 3, 1944 Norma was married to Hilmar Remmler. Norma was a dedicated employee, and a loving wife, sister, mother, grandmother (Omie) and great-grandmother. She and Hilmar enjoyed 9 pin bowling and dancing. She was a member of Hermann Son's and VFW Auxiliary, and attended Faith United Church of Christ.
(from the obituary in the paper)

Mary Evelyn Brehm to Be Baptized on Sunday, March 10th



Mary Evelyn Brehm was born to Karl and Rachel Brehm on November 30, 1918 in San Antonio. She will be baptized during the worship service on March 10th. May God bless Mary and her family and we give thanks for this latest member of the Church universal.

March Birthdays



3-5 Fischer Roland Marlow

3-7 Curt Leonhardt

3-15 Ralph Ludwig

3-22 Jennifer Marlow

If your birthday is not on here let Pasto Scott know so we can get it on there for next year.

Thank You Letters for Church Contributions to.....

We don't have room in this newsletter for the text from all these thanks you letters. Suffice it to say the following missions and nonprofits sent us letters thanking us for our church contribution to their work....

Eden Hill \$704 (This was from our Christmas Eve offering) & 2018 \$869.68

Back Bay Mission \$314.40 (date of gift 1/14/19)

Global Ministries for House of Hope in Haiti (\$704 - this was from our Christmas Eve offering)

Kiva Micro Lending - in 2018 we donated \$160.88 to Kiva for their work



March Worship Assistants List

3-3 Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte: Sam Ward Council Rep: Sam Ward
Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Shirley Manning AV: Quinn Perry
Communion : Julia Allison Church School: Michelle Perry & Nicolle Clark
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Sam Ward; Curt Leonhardt; Julia Allison; Bob Manning

3-10 Liturgist: Mel Hutzler Acolyte: Valerie Oates Council Rep: Valerie Oates
Greeter: Joe Ward Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl AV: Mikki Ward Church School: Spring Break
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Valerie Oates; Mel Hutzler; Joe Ward; Tex Pantermuehl

3-17 Liturgist: Youth Acolyte: Youth Council Rep: Bob Manning Greeter: Youth
Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow AV: Youth Church School: Spring Break Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Youth

3-24 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte: Mike Ziegler Council Rep: Mike Ziegler
Greeter: Sandy Ludwig Hospitality: Pot Luck AV: Tim Marlow Church School: Kim, Elly, & Jakob Beauchamp
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Mike Ziegler; Ralph Ludwig; Richard & Kathy Leber

3-31 Liturgist: Julie Allison Acolyte: Carol Sisco-Martinez Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez
Greeter: Sheila Angerer Hospitality: Lana Ward AV: Cassidy Martinez Church School: Michelle Perry & Nicolle Clark
Nursery: TBA Ushers: Eddie & Carol Martinez; Julia Allison; Sam Ward

4-7 Liturgist: Nicolle Clark Acolyte: Jason Chapel Council Rep: Jason Chapel
Greeter: Michelle Perry Hospitality: Jan Ziegler Communion: Sheila Angerer
AV: Mikki Ward Church School: Joe Ward & Kim Beauchamp Nursery: TBA
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Michelle Perry; Nicolle Clark; Sheila Angerer

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.

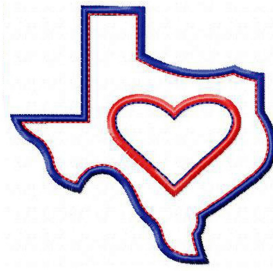
South Central Conference Women's Retreat at Slumber Falls April 26-28

The theme of this year's Women's Retreat is "Be All You Can Be". Connect with God together as women of faith in a beautiful natural setting. Focus on how to be the best we can be by relying on Christ and getting past the "I can't's" and focusing in on the "God cans".

The cost for the retreat is \$100. Here is a link for further info

<https://sccucc.org/2019-scc-womens-retreat-april-26-28-2/>

Heart of Texas



Association News

Every other month, ministers **gather at St. Bread.**

Our ministers have been doing this for years, well before I began serving as the Brazos Association Minister in 2006. In 2015, the Brazos and South Texas Associations merged to form the Heart of Texas Association, and our Jam and Bread group has been enriched by a carload from New Braunfels ever since. The group spends most of the time going around the table sharing from our personal lives and about the lives of our churches, ending with a program that is a discussion or presentation on a topic. The programs have ranged from sharing with Filipino ministers visiting the US for a meeting at Slumber Falls Camp to goodbye reflections for ministers who are leaving or retiring to discussions of skills and practices related to ministry to how to give through KIVA -- and many other topics over the years. After the sharing and program are done, the groups goes to lunch together and continues having fellowship.

several of our Heart of Texas **John's UCC in Burton for "Jam and Bread."**

The Jam and Bread programs are often filled with thoughtful discussion and helpful information. However, the most important part of the morning is the sharing. Good ministry thrives on time with trusted colleagues, where ministers can have a sanctuary to share highs and lows. Ministry is supported when pastors and chaplains can have friends who know the work and be a confidential sounding board for ideas, joys, and struggles. In the UCC, the glue that holds our church together and binds us in our walk in faith is covenant. To keep faithful covenant among us, we need to find time and space to be together and support one another. An important part of that covenant is for our ministers to spend time together to lift each other up as often as possible -- a challenge with our long distances.

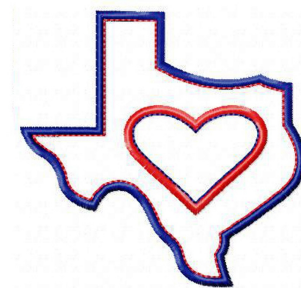
Our pastors also had a marvelous opportunity recently to be enriched and spend good time together at the annual South Central Conference Clergy Retreat at Slumber Falls Camp in early February. Once again, this was a time to support each other and be enriched. The program was led by Ron Buford, the UCC "Still Speaking" campaign leader who is now a local church pastor -- a gracious, warm-hearted, and articulate man. He led us in a 12 step way of examining racism and other tendencies to judge people by their outer traits. Most of our local church pastors were there to benefit from Ron's "food for the spirit," his challenges to us, our worship together, and our time of building community.

The ministries of all of our churches are strengthened when our pastors have strong and healthy collegial relationships. I encourage all of us to understand and support our ministers as they take time to spend with others, whether it is in a local lectionary Bible study group (to share about the week's scriptures), Jam and Bread, and/or another intentional group. I also hope you will support our ministers in maintaining their covenantal ties to the wider UCC. As we need the community of our church, our ministers need each other. When they can have that support and encouragement, the ministry of all of our churches will be enriched.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

Heart of Texas Association News

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