

January 2020

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

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Pastoral Assistant, Janet Sherman L.M.

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Am I the only one that has trouble believing it is now 2020? was the intro to the old soap opera Days of Our Lives? "Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives."



I've never been big on making New Year's resolutions, probably because I learned a long time ago that I'm not very good at carrying them out! A New Year delineates a new beginning in our lives. The old year is gone, if not forgotten and the New Year lays before us pristine, untouched, full of possibilities. Maybe, just maybe, we can make new choices and follow different paths.

Like many I'm hoping I can exercise more and maybe eat a little better, maybe lose a little weight. I'd also like to green up my lifestyle, at least a little bit. To this end I went out and bought a bicycle the day after Christmas. I haven't ridden a bike in years. I'm hoping to ride it to the church, grocery store, etc, when the weather and time allows, instead of taking my car. I rode it to the church from my house the other day. It only took me 20-30 minutes, depending on which route I take.. The car takes me 12-15 minutes. It's great killing two birds with one stone. I get some exercise, I can slow down a bit and enjoy the view along the way, and burn less fossil fuel. We'll see if I am as keen when the weather gets hotter!

I looked up a few quotes on riding a bike.

Charles Schultz, , **"Life is like a 10-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."**
The bike I bought has 21 gears!

Albert Einstein wrote, **"Life is like riding a bicycle. In order to keep your balance, you must keep moving."**

Novelist H.G. Wells wrote, **"Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race."**

A final thought from Mark Twain, **"Learn to ride a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live."**

FAMILY PROMISE CHALLENGE



I write to you with a special 2020 challenge.

Image you are a parent with 2 small children and you have no place to live and no income. What would you do? Where would you turn for help?

Studies show there are several hundred homeless children in the two local school districts. In its 7 year history, Family Promise of New Braunfels has graduated 50 families. Family Promise makes a difference for these families and children.

The mission of FP is “to provide support for families with children facing homelessness to achieve and sustain independence.”

Faith Church has been deeply involved with Family Promise since its 2013 inception. Members have served on the Board of Directors, multiple committees, host coordinators, fund raising, building and grounds maintenance, providing meals, hosting families overnight and even playing games with children.

Now the SPECIAL CHALLENGE. My term serving on the Board concludes March 2020. Faith Church has always had a representative on the Board. It is fitting to maintain that representation continuing the ministry Christ gave us in Matthew 25:40: “Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”

The responsibilities of the Board includes: establish program policy, strategic planning, fund raising, financial management, and public relations. The Board currently meets one time per month.

I trust that someone would prayerfully consider serving families in need by serving on the Board.

Anyone so willing, or would suggest someone, please contact Pastor Scott or Bob Manning

Bob Manning

January Birthdays

1-5 Bill Burns

1-19 Julia Allison

1-21 David Myer

1-22 Bonnie Stark

1-26 Darlene Stephens

1-29 Kelcey Kramm

If your birthday isn't on here let Pastor Scott know so we can get it in next year.



MLK MEMORIAL MARCH Monday, Jan 20

Join New Braunfels' annual march to honor the work and legacy of this great civil rights leader. Faith UCC members let's meet around 9:30 a.m. on Monday, **January 20**, at the **Civic Center on Sequin Street**.



The March will step off at 10 a.m., eventually returning to the Civic Center for a musical celebration featuring singing by Soul Sessions. A traveling exhibit of Herb Block political cartoons will be on display, and opportunities to register to vote or receive information about the census will be available.

Please take note of the change in location for the muster. made necessary by the closure of the San Antonio Street bridge

Thanks!!!

Dear Faith Church family,
Please accept my sincere thank you for the lovely card and gift card I received from you for Christmas. Please know that I am thrilled to be able to serve God and you as the congregation of Faith Church, UCC! Looking forward to another year of growth and accomplishments.

Thank you also to those of you who have taken me under your wing to be a mentor for me.

God's peace and love to all.

Gratefully, Janet
Janet Monroe Sherman, L.M.

Faith UCC Online Directory Update

The online church directory now has a feature that allows church members to request changes or updates to the directory online. (the phone app will be updated soon.)

Information on the new feature and how to submit changes is here: [December Release Notes | Instant Church Directory Blog](#)



With all the changes in the congregation make-up I would like to bring my camera and equipment to the church each Sunday in January to update members' photos if they would like. I know that some were unhappy with my previous attempt, and that we've gotten new attendees in the congregation this year. Do you think that would be a good idea?

In Faith, Mike Ziegler



SOS Update

SOS is in need of more egg cartons for the clients. I am thinking we could do a "carton drive" like the jelly drive we did before. Everyone bring as many empty clean cartons as they can and I will deliver them to the food bank each week. It could also be an on-going drive as they will always need cartons.

In October we donated 162 pounds of food to SOS! Our thanks to ALL who volunteer and help with this effort.

Special thanks to Mike Ziegler who is our representative on the SOS Board at its monthly meetings!

Kiva 2019 Impact Summary

In 2019 Faith UCC lent out \$6,700 through our Kiva Micro-lending account! This works out to 263 loans in 48 different countries! We helped 669 borrowers! (Many of our loans are to lending groups.) **We currently have \$5,467 in our church Kiva account.** When our repayments come in each month we make over \$500 in new loans each month! If you would like to donate to our Kiva fund just drop a check in the offering and designate it for Kiva.



www.kiva.org

Through Kiva lenders like us Kiva lent out more than \$140,000,000 to over 375,000 borrowers in 67 countries in 2019!

There is an African proverb, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

*Thank
You!*

Thanks!!!

I would like to thank the church for the card and Amazon gift card! It has already come in handy to buy a few items for the bike I bought. I would also like to thank all of the individual church members for their cards, goodies, gifts and well wishes! I'm certainly wishing the church and each of you individually a very Happy New Year!

Pastor Scott

Heart of Texas Association News

I share with joy the ordination of Will Nelson on Sunday, December 22nd at Church of the Savior in Cedar Park. Will has been called to be the pastor of Union Congregational Church, UCC in Three Lakes, Wisconsin. We send Will off with our blessings and prayers for a fruitful ministry among the people of Union Congregational and Three Lakes.



At our Fall Meeting, we voted to give travel scholarships to all UCC youth and adult chaperones from this Association who go to the National Youth Event by voting to distribute \$8750 in money for this purpose from our Association budget. We anticipate that those scholarships will be about \$125 per person based on past numbers.

The National Youth Event (NYE), held every four years, is the largest gathering in the UCC, often bringing together 4000 people. We now partner with the Christian

Church/Disciples of Christ in this event. I have been several times, and I know that it is a moving faith experience that those who go will never forget. The speakers are always outstanding, the worship is uplifting, the opportunities to meet UCC and DOC youth from all over the country are unparalleled, the choice of workshops is varied and plentiful, and the opportunities for service add to the experience. This year's NYE will be at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, July 22-25. It is for youth who have completed 6th through 12th grades. The registration fee (which includes dorm lodging, meals during NYE, and event registration) is \$375. A registration link is coming soon, but normally the registration deadline is in the late spring. The link for NYE is here: <http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>, and you can find videos of highlights from the past two NYEs

Here: <https://www.ucc.org/youth/nye/media-gallery> and https://www.ucc.org/believe_calls_nye_youth_to_action I hope many of our youth will be able to join in this great, faith-building event.

We rejoice with Weimar UCC in the calling of their new pastor, Rev. Juvenal Cervantes.

Rev. Cervantes will be moving to Weimar from Greeley, Colorado next June in order to allow family to finish the school year. He will be preaching at Weimar twice in the coming months. Our brothers in Christ, Gerry Metzger and Karl Tewold, have been providing pulpit supply to support Weimar in this time of waiting. We look forward to welcoming Juvenal Cervantes to this Association.

Blessings in Christ,
Liz Nash, Association Minister

Update From Lebanon by Abigail Carroll

The environment in Lebanon has been very difficult the last few months, especially for refugees, migrant workers, and other people dependent on the UN or the Lebanese government for support. Lebanon is in the middle of country-wide protests against government corruption. We are hopeful that eventually some good changes will take root, but for now, things are very uncertain. Usually protests are peaceful, but government response has come across as insufficient and tokenizing resulting in escalated tension between demonstrators. Thank you



everyone who has kept us in your prayers. Overall, most of my friends and I have stayed safe despite taking part in the almost daily protests. Also, community members stepped up to support refugees during the winter season to mitigate a decrease in UN services. Last week, we had over 50 people stop by the community center I volunteer with to pick up warm winter clothes.

On the church front, I enjoyed connecting with a minister supported by the UCC who is also based here in Beirut. He is very passionate about youth ministry and mentorship and I am optimistic that we will be able to work together further in the future. This week, I made it back to the States via Cairo for the start of a short visit. I'll be presenting a workshop in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on January 4 for LGBT+ Christians, and coming back to Texas and visiting Faith UCC January 12. Looking forward to seeing you all soon!

(Abigail will share her experiences in an extended Mission Moment on Sunday, January 12.)

Thank You From Come to the River

First, let me thank you for your extra ordinary generosity. Come to the River would never have started without your assistance.

Second, we will no longer need the foyer for Monday and Tuesday nights. We will be moving in with another non-profit on Comal Avenue.....

From all of us at Come to the River Inc. we are so thankful for you all and pray for continued success through the message of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Much, much respect!

Connie Hayes'

(Note: Come to rented the narthex as they got off the ground as a non-profit.)

Reed Hoke at Community In Christ in Iowa

If you would like to watch the Christmas Eve Service Reed Hoke led the music on at Community in Christ church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa click on this link and watch the service on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pET3xvWUe5k>

Worship Assistants List

1/5 Liturgist: Jennifer Marlow Acolyte & Council Rep: Carol Sisco-Martinez
Greeter: Eddie Martinez Hospitality: Tex Pantermuehl Nursery: TBA
Church School: Break AV: Joe Ward Communion: Julia Allison
Ushers: Carol Sisco-Martinez; Tim & Jennifer Marlow; Tex Pantermuehl

1/12 Liturgist: Donna Myer Acolyte & Council Rep: Jason Chapel
Greeter: Joe Ward Hospitality: Shirley Manning Nursery: TBA
Church School: Break AV: Cassidy Marintez
Ushers: Jason Chapel; Bob Manning; Kim Beauchamp; Elly Beauchamp

1/19 Liturgist: Kathy Leber Acolyte & Council Rep: Sam Ward Greeter: Joe Ward
Hospitality: Jennifer Marlow Nursery: TBA Church School: TBA AV: Tim Marlow
Ushers: Sam Ward; Richard & Kathy Leber; Joe Ward

1/26 Liturgist: Curt Leonhardt Acolyte & Council Rep: Valerie Oates
Greeter: Karen Kramm Hospitality: Potluck Nursery: TBA Church School: TBA
AV: Quinn Perry Ushers: Valerie Oates; Kai Perry; Curt Leonhardt; Karen Kramm

2/2 Liturgist: Ralph Ludwig Acolyte & Council Rep: Bob Manning Greeter: Joe Ward
Hospitality: Lana Ward Nursery: TBA Church School: TBA AV: David Reed
Communion: Carol Sisco-Martinez Ushers: Bob Manning; Joe Ward; David Bizer; Sam Ward

2/9 Liturgist: Julia Allison Acolyte & Council Rep: Mike Ziegler Greeter: Richard Leber
Hospitality: Jan Ziegler Nursery: TBA Church School: TBA AV: Joe Ward
Ushers: Mike & Jan Ziegler; Richard Leber; Julia Allison



If you cannot serve on the designated date/dates shown, please try and find a substitute and let Pastor Scott and Janet Sherman know. Also please change the names on the kiosk if you know ahead of time. If that is not possible leave a message at the church office (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 at 830-625-6761.

Potluck & Program on Sunday, January 26th

We will have an end of the month potluck after church on Sunday, January 26th. Pastor Scott will present a program on his trip to Scotland. This will be the last of his Scotland Sabbatical Programs. This one will cover his stay in the Orkney Islands and Pitlochry.



Global Ministries Child & Elder Sponsorship Program Thank You

Dear Friends, Greetings from the Global Ministries Child and Elder Sponsorship Program! We are sure this letter finds you well.

I am enclosing a letter and photo (you can see these on the kiosk) from Dawa Tserinig, your sponsored child at Sonada Refugee Camp, in Darjeeling, India, and want to thank you for your continued support of this program. English is not your child's first language, so the letter written by the child might seem stilted or simplistic. We are grateful the center made this effort to communicate with you.

The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program is committed to aiding children at risk by providing a practical way for individuals and churches to extend a helping hand. Since the 1950's, this global ministry has been working to safeguard the future of children around the world. A commitment to sponsoring a child helps to provide housing, clothing, food, education and basic health care until age eighteen.



The Global Ministries Child Sponsorship Program is a partnership between Global Ministries and the various participating centers around the world. Your donations help the partnering institutions provide services to sponsored and unsponsored children. Support of sponsored children is provided in ways that will not set them apart from their siblings, other children and their classmates.

Please feel free to contact our program manager, Linda Lawrence, at 866-822-8224 extension 3222 or lawrencel@ucc.org or me at extension 3878 or cornaccp@ucc.org if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks you again and may God bless you richly.

Sincerely,

Patricia Cornacchione, Program Assistant

Speaker from Eden Seminary on January 19

We will have a speaker from Eden Seminary talk about Eden and CUE Seminary Support during an extended mission moment on Sunday, January 19th. Faith UCC supports CUE.

