



Greetings and peace to all of you,

Let us pray: Great and Holy One, in this time of waning light, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet You, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in Your image, remake us into Your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen. I found that prayer in "Sundays and Seasons" which is a resource that I use in service preparation for each Sunday in the church year. As we enter the season of Advent I encourage everyone to say that prayer of confession every day as we return to our baptism and express our brokenness. It is fitting that we approach God as we realize that we are only justified by His grace through faith. This we do in preparation for the birth of our Savior.

With that being said, Advent is truly a season of hope, waiting, yearning and preparation. Unfortunately it is a season largely forgotten by our culture which strives off of immediate gratification. Likewise we have forgotten what it means to wait. This we find in the church as we are always eager to sing carols before the Savior has even been born. We should remember however that in all this waiting, God is creating desire within us. And we trust it is worth the wait.

During the season of Advent I encourage you to read and mediate on the following. Yes, you have an assignment. Enjoy!

Advent Week 1: Surprise

Salvation always comes as a surprise. It's what happens when God does for us what we could never do ourselves. So when God comes close it is always unimaginable, yet God asks us to expect it.

Advent Week 2: Prepare

Hope might sound passive, but it is the farthest thing from it. Christian hope won't let you just sit on your hands. There are preparations to be made and roadwork to be straightened out because God is coming.

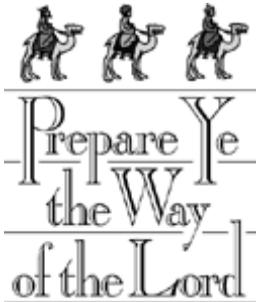
Advent Week 3: Expectations

How do we know when God has come close? What if it's not what we were expecting? Advent asks us to adjust some of our hopes and expectations.

Advent Week 4: Scandal

More often than not, when God comes close it results in a major scandal. Our sensibilities are offended and misunderstandings fly about. When "God is with us" it's likely that public disgrace and secret dismissals will soon follow, because, essentially, when God comes close life gets disrupted.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Doug
(Sundays and Seasons, Year A 2014. P. 30)



*Christ
IS Coming!*

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for November

	Sunday School	Worship
11/3	31	111
11/10	55	138
11/17		
11/24		



Christmas Program
December 15

New Members:

Shirley Stahlhut became a member of Friedens UCC on November 10, 2013.

Arthur and Geraldine Rock became members of Friedens UCC on November 24, 2013.

Marriage:

Pamela Literski and Michael Saxton were married on November 2, 2013.

Deaths:

Leo Lindsay, born August 8, 1936, died November 9, 2013.

Charmion Jay Semanisin, born July 31, 1920 died November 15, 2013.
Funeral November 19, 2013.

Memorial Service:

Harold E. Smith's memorial service was held November 16, 2013.

Baptism:

Jack VanHoose was baptized November 24, 2013.

Don't Miss the



Newsletter articles are **due December 15th**. Due to the holiday (the office will be closed the 24th and 25th) and in order to ensure that church members receive their newsletters before the 1st of the month, **late articles will not be accepted.**

*bring articles to the office

* e-mail them to:

friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com

*fax articles to 667-6006



DECEMBER 22ND

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



Ushers

Dec. 1	Bill & Marla Brown Harold & Mary Ellen Schwehr
Dec. 8	Chuck & Barb Toennies Amy & Abigail Schroeter
Dec. 15	Bob & Janis Little John & Carol Deloney
Dec. 22	Dave & Pat Edgar Rick & Sherry Smith
Dec. 24	Schwehr family
Dec. 29	Gladys Huston JoAnn Longhi Jackie Estes Virginia Bailey
Jan. 5	Doug & Debbie Brendel John & Carol Deloney

If you cannot be present on your day,
please call Yvonne, 667-8409



Liturgists

Dec. 1	Carol Deloney
Dec. 8	Debbie Byrd
Dec. 15	Joe Smith
Dec. 22	Courtney Talbert
Dec. 24	Harold Schwehr
Dec. 29	Dave Hoppes
Jan. 5	TBD

Altar Flowers

Carol Deloney and Sandy Harbison –
poinsettias
Decorating Committee & Volunteers



Greeters

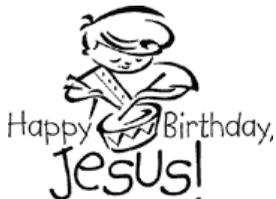
Dec. 1	John & Carol Deloney
Dec. 8	Debbie Byrd family
Dec. 15	Joe Smith Claudia Galaske
Dec. 22	Dave & Pat Edgar
Dec. 24	Schwehr family
Dec. 29	Sue Hanks Jane Maedge
Jan. 5	Laura & John Lally



Poinsettia orders and
memorials/honorariums are **DUE**
December 15.



- 1 Jeff Seymore
- 2 Mary Chasteen
Kody McGhee
- 3 Jacob Whittington
Connor Stephens
- 5 Andrea Maneke
- 7 Kyle Gerguson
Kristofer Ferguson
Frances Layfield
Rachel McCoy
- 10 Travis Whittington
- 11 Sharon Kohler
- 12 Dax Wilkins
- 13 Dennis Kniser
- 14 Karen Whittington
- 15 Jax Andreas
Cole Meyer
- 16 Judy Weber
Alyssa Matz
- 19 Gene Klenke
- 21 Jaden Stephens
- 22 Betsy Dankenbring
- 28 Millie Leffert
- 29 Deb Brendel
Wilma Edwards
- 30 Dylan Patton



*Show Them
You!
Care!*

Items collected for
Ministries Unlimited
in November were:

- 26 juice pouches
- 1 box hot chocolate
- 2 jars jelly
- 1 dry pasta
- 13 macaroni and cheese
- 2 packages spaghetti
- 1 box mashed potatoes
- 1 can fruit
- 1 pasta dinner
- 3 large cans soup
- 1 pasta sauce
- 1 can coffee
- 2 cans baked beans
- 2 cans pumpkin
- 2 boxes jell-o pudding
- 3 cans vegetables
- 1 bottle salad dressing
- 1 lb super cheezey
wrapping paper

Thank you for your donation! The
items for **December** are: **shampoo,**
deodorant, and bath soap.



7 p.m.

It Happened Here – 35 Years Ago

Come and see.

Our worship service on Sunday, December 3 will be something different. It will be a service to explain to all the meaning of our “Christmon” tree. This year our tree shall be placed in the sanctuary to be a part of our worship service the First Sunday in Advent and to continue to inspire us all through this important season. Come and help us transform an ordinary Christmas tree into a “Christmon” tree with meaning – honoring Christ.

The Erna Smith book, called the “Poet’s Corner” will be ready for sale on December 1. Ministries Unlimited will be selling the books for \$2.00 each. The book is illustrated by Mrs. Tami Adelhardt. Contact the church office if you wish to have a copy. The money from the sales of the book will be divided between Ministries Unlimited and a Memorial Poetry Fund that will be used to encourage local residents to write and submit their poems at an annual poetry contest which will be started in Erna’s name.

Christmas Eve Service will start at 6:30 due to the 24th falling on a Sunday.

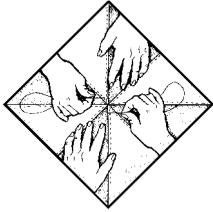
The Women’s Guild reported that 125 bed pads for Hitz Home were made on November 8th. We were hoping to make 100 – good job ladies! Irwin Dollinger has made new stands needed for the Rummage Sale. It was moved to sell 5 old tables and buy 5 new ones. Passed to send \$100 to Hoyleton Home to be used for arts and crafts. The Tour Committee reported that they are going to tour Shaw’s Gardens to see the Christmas displays on Wednesday, December 13th.

The Senior Youth Fellowship will be going to Hitz Home on December 22nd. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. We will have refreshments with the residents and return around 9 p.m. The entire congregation is invited to join us. Help spread some Christmas cheer! Meet us there.

The Sunday school teachers voted to purchase a tape recorder for a girl at the Hoyleton Home as a Christmas gift.

The Couples Club will go to the Round Table Restaurant on December 10 for their Christmas party. Cost is \$12 per couple.





Quilt and Art Show

The Women's Guild would like to thank everyone who

participated in the Twelfth Annual Quilt and Art Show. We want to thank everyone who helped display the quilts in the sanctuary, manned the booths in fellowship hall, and made the delicious soup and sandwiches.

Thanks to Jim Bailey, night watchman, Bob Little, for the music, and to Judy for making lots of copies.

Quilt Show winners were:

New Machine Quilted:

Diana Minnick –
Stitcher's Garden
Wilma Edwards – Sampler

New Hand Quilted:

Lois Leach – Hotsy Totsy
Ann Culp –
Cathedral Windows

Heirloom:

John P Jones –
Grandmother's Garden
Melora Becker – Candlewick

Baby Quilt :

Laura Mannz – Duck
Una Mae Meyer – Teddy Bears

Afghan:

Lois Leach – Autumn Leaf
Mary Ann Gaultney – Roses

Wall Hanging:

Mary Ann Griffin – Mistinguett
Diana Minnick – Wrapping
Paper

Table Runner:

Sue Voss – Harvest
Sue Voss - Who Who

Christmas

Lois Leach – Poinsettias
Una Mae Meyer – Bells

Miscellaneous:

Diana Minnick –
Diana's Quilt Shop (counted
cross stitch)
Sarah Wagner –
Hooray Cardigan (knitting)

Best of Show :

Lois Leach – Autumn Leaf

Raffle winners were:

Quilt- - Claudia Galaske
Caned Chair – Phyllis Geske
Afghan – Mary Emmons
Table Runner – Sharon
Klosterman
Wreath – Kay Brendel
Embroidered sheets,
pillowcases – Ellen Daniels

Thanks to all who donated prizes for the raffle.

Co-chairs

Vicki Fischer and Gloria Mannz





Sunday School News

All Sunday school children will be making a ceramic Christmas tree on December 1st and 8th. We hope their trees bring them many years of holiday enjoyment. We have asked for everyone making a tree to contribute \$7.00 to help offset the cost of this project. We are extremely thankful to Debbie Byrd she has spent many hours getting this project ready for the children. Thank you Debbie!

The Santa Breakfast is December 14th! Come spend a fun morning with us and bring a friend! Call the office to get your child registered. We expect a full house and don't want any of our children to miss this fun event!

December 15th is the Sunday school Christmas program! All children will be in the program which will take place during worship. Special practice will be Saturday the 14th at 11:15 following the Santa Breakfast.

There will be NO Sunday School December 22nd or 29th. We will resume our regular schedule Jan 5th

Where Moms Connect class will be meeting January 12th and 26th. All women are invited!

Please be sure to turn in your giving tree gifts!

Christmas blessings to you and your family from the Friedens Kidz, Sunday school staff and Stephanie



Gifts for Kindercottage

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GIFT!

1. Please wrap the present.
2. ATTACH the ornament tag to the outside of the wrapped gift so we know who the present is for!!
3. Gifts need to be at church by December 15.



Dear Friends,

Hitz Memorial Home would like to thank you for your donation of \$137. Your generosity combined with thoughtful gifts of other friends, is a very important part of the Home's commitment to excellence in long term care.

On behalf of the residents, Board of Directors and Staff of Hitz Memorial Home, please accept our sincere appreciation for your generous gift.

Sincerely,
Susan Tudor
Administrator

Hello everyone,

Your envelope of treasure has arrived. Also arriving today was our new laptop by Dell. Yes, it took an awful lot of labels, but you helped accomplish the goal. Please continue saving and mailing. Above all, thank you very much!

Yours in Christ,
Brenda Crisp
Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Dear Friedens Family,

I want to personally thank you so very much for attending our concert for Ministries Unlimited. I could not have done it without you. I was so excited and happy to see so many of my Friedens Family there to support the pantry.

The local talent was so amazing and I hope was enjoyed by all of you. The food and money donated to the food pantry was so outstanding is very much needed. I was so grateful for your giving out of love to share joy and happiness with others. God bless you all for helping me to help others.

Thank you so much for everything, from the bottom of my heart. You are the greatest!

Ruby Schultze

To my Friedens Faith Family,

I want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, calls and visits during my hospital stay and at home following my stroke. I am slowly recovering with therapy and TLC from my family and Gladys. It was really good to be able to be back in worship. May God bless all of you.

Thelma Huston



2013
**Shut-in
Ministry**

Dorothy Parsons
300 S. Station Road
Apt. # 8323
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Joe Estes
Eden Care Center
400 S. Station Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Lori Grimaud
Eden Care Center
400 S. Station Road
Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Elda Hencke
Faith Countryside Home
100 Faith Drive
Highland, IL 62249

Dorothy Suter
1450 26th Street
Highland Health Care
Highland, IL 62249

Rosemary Rose
Alhambra Care Center
417 E. Main St.
Alhambra, IL 62001

Bill & Adeline Burgess (667-8964) Liberty
Square Dr.
Apt. 22
Troy, IL 62294

Clarence Adelhardt
The Fountains #217
39 Dorothy Drive
Troy, IL 62294

Gladys Bliss
The Fountains #214
39 Dorothy Drive
Troy, IL 62294

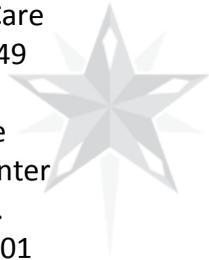


LaVon Brueggeman
Liberty Village Apt. #404
6955 State Rt. 162
Maryville, IL 62062

Millie Kruckeberg
Liberty Village
6955 State Rt. 162
Maryville, IL 62062

Don Brendel
1450 26th Street
Highland Health Care
Highland, IL 62249

Anita Jarvis
The Fountains #229
39 Dorothy Drive
Troy, IL 62294



Margaret Lee
The Fountains #210
39 Dorothy Drive
Troy, IL 62294

Maureen Heuser
Cambridge House # 112
6960 Rt. 162
Maryville, IL 62062



Vivian Smith (667-0188)
128 Sugar Mill Road
Troy, IL 62294

Please remember these members of our church family who may not be able to attend worship. A holiday card would be very appreciated by these folks.

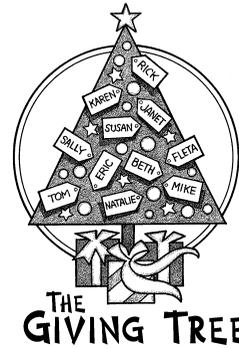
Women's Guild Banquet
Dec. 18th, 6:30 p.m.
Make your reservation by Dec. 11th



Caroling

December 15th at 1:00 p.m.

(Snacks too!)



The Giving Tree is a mission headed up by our Youth to provide presents for children at Kindercottage. We have adopted 6 children this year.

Take an ornament gift tag from the tree, please remember to write your name on the corresponding wish list page nearby, purchase the suggested gift, wrap it and *place the ornament tag* on the outside of the wrapped present. Return it to church by December 15 so that they can be delivered to Kindercottage in time for Christmas.

Thank you from the Friedens Youth Group.

special visit



Breakfast with Santa at 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, on Dec. 14th, cost is \$2. Reservations due on the 7th.



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild monthly meeting was held on Wednesday November 20, 2013 at 7pm, with 14 members present. Virginia Bailey opened the meeting and Betty Schiller read articles about blessings in disguise and two feasts, and then two poems, all related to giving thanks.

Christmas ornament stories were shared. Members brought in snowflake, angel, gem angel, red ball, holiday dancers, teacher, angel for a special find, stitched, friendship ball, and drummer boy ornaments. Some were old, some very old, some handcrafted, but all are special and it was very enjoyable to hear about them.

The meeting continued with discussion on kitchen supplies, using plastic glasses, the beautiful quilt that is currently being worked on, and bears and lap pads for Hospice. The 12th annual Quilt and Art Show was a success, thanks to everyone who helped. Ideas are already developing for next year's show.

Members approved the Women's Guild officers for a two year term:

President - Betty Schiller

Vice President - Donna Bingham

Secretary - Sue Hanks
Treasurer - JoAnn Longhi

Following a closing prayer and song, refreshments were provided by Georgia Wilkins and Gloria Mannz. Members enjoyed delicious pumpkin cake and cherry dump cake.

The December meeting will be the Family Christmas Banquet and Auction on December 18, 2013 at 6:30 pm. Chicken will be provided, and it's potluck for sides, and cookies for desert. For reservations, contact the church office by December 11, 2013. If anyone needs a ride, please call Betty Schiller at 616-6427. Hope to see you there!



Service of Remembrance

December 8th ~ 4 p.m.

Community memorial service for loved ones buried at Friedens Cemetery. Please come and light a candle if you'd like.