

A Word from Pastor Cindy,

I write this on December 26, the day after Christmas. Another Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have come and gone. I am mending well after my December 7 spinal fusion surgery, and I've already come back to Friedens to lead worship on Dec. 23 and Christmas Eve. The so-called Mayan apocalypse has come and gone, and life on earth goes on. But our hearts were broken by the tragic loss of children and educators in Newtown, CT, and we know that not everything in life is as it should be. And the fiscal cliff looms ahead, with no solution yet in sight.

So as 2012 fades away and 2013 makes its entrance, what does the New Year hold? While I can't know exactly what 2013 will bring, I'm aware of some very important, even sacred, conversations that await, conversations that our nation must have:

*We must talk about the place of guns, violence, and mental health in our culture. Shootings are happening anywhere, everywhere, every day in our nation, in the most ordinary places of our daily round—schools, malls, community buildings. The loss of so many young children at Sandy Hook Elementary School cries out for action that will prevent this from ever happening again. Right now, guns are plentiful, yet effective mental health services are not. We must do better, for our sake, for our children's sake.

*As we tackle our fiscal woes, we must talk about how best to care for the poor and vulnerable among us. I personally am of the opinion that the religious and non-profit sector is not able to fully provide for the needy, and therefore government must play a role. While we may agree or disagree on this point, we Christians have to remember the clear teachings of Jesus and the Hebrew prophets, that in the realm of God, all are lifted up and cared for. And the realm of God isn't intended solely for the by-and-by, but for right here and now. The parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25 reminds us that we are judged by how we provide for "the least" among us; as the song says, "God is watching us."

These conversations will not be easy, and we will come from different places and perspectives. But we must dialogue as citizens, if we truly are to move forward, if we really intend to live in a world where every child can grow up in safety and has what he or she needs to thrive and develop his/her magnificent potential. Avoiding conversation just because we assume we'll disagree is cowardly. But coming together with respect for one another, knowing that none of us holds the entire answer but that each of us holds a piece of the solution, and then asking God to move among us so that we can hear one another and move towards discernment; well, that's downright holy work. And holy work has the potential to change hearts and minds, overturning expectations and producing surprising results.

You may have noticed that I'm one who encourages the airing of diverse voices and perspectives; you may have been in a meeting in which I've actually encouraged conflict, rather than squelching it! I do so because I believe that each of us holds part of what will be the best solution, and I trust in the movement of God's Spirit to bring the best out of us. My hope is that the church can be a place in which honest, respectful dialogue occurs, which then can be modeled elsewhere.

Can we pray that God will lead our congregations and our nation to have these sacred conversations, with respect and care for one another? Can we be so bold as to imagine that things can be different, even better, in 2013?

Peace, Pastor Cindy

P.S. In the past several weeks, I've been the beneficiary of so much love and care from you good Friedens folk! For all that you did to celebrate my 20th ordination anniversary; for the prayers, cards, and well wishes as I had surgery; and for all the holiday cards and gifts—I am so deeply grateful, and I give thanks to God for you and for Friedens UCC!

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for December

	Sunday School	Worship
12/2	36	129
12/9	38	121
12/16	42	133
12/23		95
12/24	--	165

Birth:

Kallin Matthew Crews, son of Brandon and Amanda Crews, grandson of Paul and Sue Jarvis, was born on December 4, 2012, weighing 8 lb. 11 oz.

Marriage:

Amanda O'Dell and Patrick Smith were married on December 1, 2012.

Baptism:

Mason James Willis, son of Brian and Denise Willis, was baptized on December 31, 2012.

Death:

Reverend Ken Mesle passed away on December 19, 2012. A memorial service is planned for January 19, 2013 at 2 p.m.

Newsletter articles are due on **January 20th.**

You may:

- bring your articles to the office
- e-mail them to:

friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com

- fax the article: 667-6006



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Day



The church office will be closed on January 21st in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Jan. 25 – 27 is a busy weekend:

Friday – Trivia Night

Saturday – Pie making class, learn how to make Sue Hanks' lemon meringue pie

Sunday – Congregational meeting with soup and dessert lunch



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



USHERS

Jan. 6	Larry Bliss Lloyd Bliss Virgil Whittington Ed Whittington
Jan. 13	Julie Loehring Gladys Huston JoAnn Longhi Jackie Estes
Jan. 20	Doug & Debbie Brendel Bryan & Carrie Andreas
Jan. 27	John & Carol Deloney Ron & Sandy Harbison
Feb. 8	Dave & Sandy Morton Fred & Wanda Keil

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

Liturgists

Jan. 6	Joe Smith
Jan. 13	Claudia Galaske
Jan. 20	Yvonne Kamm
Jan. 27	Evan Bosaw
Feb. 8	Bill Brown

ALTAR FLOWERS

Donna Bingham

GREETERS

Jan. 6	Donna Bingham Marla Brown
Jan. 13	Jim & Claudia Galaske
Jan. 20	Ken & Linda Grotefendt
Jan. 27	The Bosaw Family
Feb. 8	Bill & Marla Brown



January 27
Right after worship

Congregational Meeting

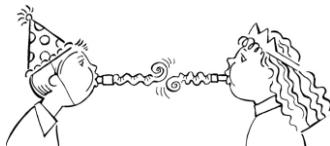


On the coattails of the soup & dessert
lunch on January 27



January

- 4 Brennan Bauer
Annaliese Dankenbring
Jeffery Seymore II
- 6 Aaron Jaconis
Harold Schwehr
- 7 Aidan Johnson
- 9 Crystal Deichmann
Fred Keil
- 10 Zoe Ann Willimann
- 11 Georgia Wilkins
- 12 Debbie Kniser
Kristin Lally
Lukas Skalisius
- 13 Rebecca Morton
- 16 Kathy Raymond
- 17 Jenny Brown
Margaret Lee
- 22 Eric Miller
- 24 Kayla Haller
- 25 Brett Grotefendt
Damon Willis
- 27 LaVerne Buehrer
- 28 Katie Barker
- 30 Judy Weder
- 31 Dave Hoppes

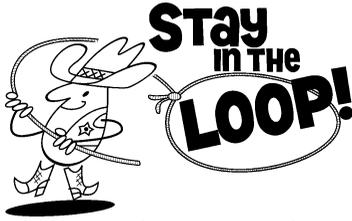


Items collected for Ministries Unlimited
in December were:

- 1 box crackers
- 1 box dry pasta
- 3 boxes muffin mix
- 3 jars spaghetti sauce
- 1 can soup
- 7 boxes spaghetti
- 2 tubes toothpaste
- 1 box jello
- 2 boxes pudding
- 5 boxes stuffing
- 1 can great northern beans
- 7 boxes regular oatmeal
- 1 large can baked beans
- 2 small cans baked beans
- 6 cans tuna
- 12 bars soap
- 4 bottles shampoo
- 1 box rice
- 1 jar pickles
- 1 can milk
- 2 spaghetti classics
- 4 deodorants
- 1 dry pasta side dish
- 3 cans chili
- 6 cans corn
- 5 cans green beans
- 1 pkg. 4-roll toilet paper
- 1 large box old fashioned oats
- 1 small can Crisco



Thank you for your donation! The
items for **January** are: **toilet tissue,**
cereal, crackers and, sanitary
supplies.



All members and non-members of Illinois South Conference (ISC) churches are invited to receive the ISC e-newsletter, the Weekly Connection, to keep up with the happenings within Illinois South Conference and to see the fine missions going on in all of the 82 churches. To receive it via e-mail send a message to lschuepbach@iscucc.org with 'Weekly Connection' in the subject line. Your e-mail will be added to our list. The Weekly Connection is fun and informative! If you do not have e-mail, you can receive it by snail mail. Simply send your name and address to Illinois South Conference, 1312 Broadway, Highland, IL 62249. Please include a donation to cover the cost of postage. We hope to hear from you.



Welcome to our new and returning members of the various church boards!

THANK YOU for serving!

***It Happened Here – 35
Years Ago***

A special congregational meeting was held on December 11, 1978 with 95 people present.

The Finance Board informed the congregation they would canvas the members for donations and pledges for the building of a new expansion of the present church. Gladys Bliss was elected to be Treasurer of the Expansion Fund. The architect estimates the proposed construction to cost \$285,000 plus architectural fees. (This is now known as the educational wing.)

The Junior High Youth is planning a bowling party for January 14.

The Couple's Club enjoyed a progressive dinner on December 11 with 30 members participating.

The annual congregational meeting will be on January 15 after worship service.





Season's Greetings,

On behalf of the children, staff and families we serve, I thank you for caring and sharing this gift with our mission.

We hope you and your congregation enjoy a very happy and blessed Christmas season.

Merry Christmas,
Brenda Crisp
UniPres Kindercottage

Dear Friends,

Hitz Memorial Home would like to thank you for your recent donation. 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

Thank you to all my Friedens friends for the many cards, gifts, candy, cookies and Christmas wishes that I received. It's a pleasure to work at a place where I get to encounter so many wonderful people every day when I go to work.

Judy Nowlin, Church Secretary

~Fabulous Fudge Fundraiser~

Roughly 65 pounds of fudge were made and sold by members of the Youth Group! The approximate profit was \$390. With this money, the youth were able to fulfill the entire wish list of one of the young children at Kindercottage. Then the remaining wishes on the Giving Tree were granted.



The rest of the money raised, around \$150, was donated to the DuBois Center Boot Fund to help purchase new cowboy boots for the campers to use when horseback riding.

The Youth Group says THANK YOU to everyone who purchased fudge and made donations toward this mission project!



Sunday School News

January

19-20th Winter Weekend - all High School students - FUN weekend at DuBois Center!

February

3rd Pizza sales begin

16th -17th Jr. High weekend at DuBois

23rd Women's Retreat

Happy New Year!

From the Friedens Kidz, CEB and Stephanie.

We wish you Good health, happiness and daily God sightings in the New Year.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make 2012 a wonderful year.

We are looking forward to 2013 with great hope and excitement!

Rotation schedule

Living as Care Takers

January

6 th	Story	Amy S.
13 th	Art	Carol K. & Mandy C.
20 th	Games	High School Class
27 th	Science	Karen K. & Sherry G.



The Santa Breakfast was a huge success! We hoped for 50 people and ended up with 150! The event ran smoothly and everyone who attended had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who worked this event!



Women's Guild

'Twas the week before Christmas
And all thru Fellowship Hall,
There was good food and laughter
We were having a ball.....at the
annual Christmas Banquet and
Auction.

The Women's Guild held this event on Wednesday 12/19/12 at 6:30pm. The tables were festively decorated in red and green, with tiny trees and packages. There was a wide assortment of delicious things to eat, thanks to the many talented cooks we have at Friedens. The dessert table held an amazing selection of cookies, too many to try them all.

Mary Ann Gaultney provided an encore reading of a letter about misplaced gloves, just as funny the second time around. And then Santa stopped by with a present for everyone.

After everything settled down, the auction got underway. Gladys and JoAnn were the auctioneers, and Virginia helped out as it got very busy keeping up with the bidding. We had sister bidding up sister, and cousins were doing it too, in an effort to get the best donations. There were many nice items to bid on, and lots of laughing along the way. All proceeds

will go to Dubois Center and Hoyleton Ministries.

The next Women's Guild meeting will be on January 16, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Audrey will do the devotions, and hostesses will be Thelma and Jane. Our program activity will be scrap booking with Church photos. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Betty at 616-6427. Hope to see you there!



Trivia night will be January 25th at 6:30 p.m. Get your team together for a fun family night!

Call the church office to reserve your table, 667-6535.

