

In the past month of February, two very important things occurred at Friedens UCC: Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 13; and, Friedens' Search Committee identified a pastoral candidate who was approved by the Church Council, and who will be presented to the congregation very soon. Thanks be to God!

Many people observe the 40-day season of Lent by taking on special spiritual activities. The UCC published a 40-day Lent calendar which suggests a different activity to undertake for each day in Lent. In this spirit, I therefore suggest these Lenten activities to prepare the congregation both for Easter and for the arrival of a new Pastor:

- *If it's been awhile since you've been in church, come back. Don't wait for the new Pastor to arrive, but come before this in order to re-connect. That way, you can be a full part of the welcome, rather than someone re-orienting one's self.
- *If you're a regular church-goer, come now with new eyes and ears. Look around, listen, pay attention; discover something about Friedens that you didn't know. That's what the new Pastor and family will be doing, seeking to discern the whole of this body of Christ in addition to its parts. Try to discern the whole body as well.
- *Prayerfully review your financial support of Friedens UCC and its ministry. Surely you have expectations for the kind of ministry undertaken by the congregation, but are you making such ministry expectations possible with your own financial support? Are you up-to-date with your fiscal promises?
- *Tell others outside the congregation about why you're a member of Friedens UCC and what the congregation means to you. Go one step further—invite someone to church with you! Advertising, social media networking, visible congregational presence at community events, all are important, but the most effective evangelism tool still is word-of-mouth. For the most part, visitors come to church because someone invites them; so, each one invite one!
- *Most of all, pray for Friedens United Church of Christ, for all its leaders and members. Pray for the new Pastor and family. Pray that by working together in

ministry, Friedens' Pastor and people will touch more lives with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ. Pray for God's wisdom, guiding Friedens to faithfulness in the body of Christ, thus bringing glory to God.

Hang in there, good Friedens folks; Easter's a-coming, and a new, permanent Pastor is on the way! Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Pastor Cindy



FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for February

| | Sunday School | Worship |
|------|---------------|---------|
| 2/3 | 24 | 58 |
| 2/10 | 31 | 82 |
| 2/13 | Ash Wed. | 41 |
| 2/17 | 20 | 78 |
| 2/24 | | |

Deaths

Friends of the Church

Charles Gore passed away on 2/8/13

Rich Shevcik passed away on 2/17/13

Newsletter articles are
due on **March 17th**.

You may:

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

friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com

- fax the article: 667-6006



Items collected for Ministries Unlimited
in February were:

- 2 boxes cereal
- 1 bottle syrup
- 2 boxes pumpkin pie bar mix
- 1 zipper bag of tea bags
- 6 spiced tea bags
- 1 comb
- 60 cans whole tomatoes
- 8 boxes pancake & waffle mix
- 15 gingerbread whoopie pie kits
- 4 pkgs. Ramen noodles
- 5 bottles shampoo

Christmas Drive donations

- 1 Disney hat
- 59 coloring/activity books
- 12 three pack shirt boxes
- 16 two pack boxes
- 3 two pack misc. boxes
- 5 three pack robe boxes
- 6 six pack gift boxes

Thank you for your donation! The
items for **March** are: **shampoo,**
toothpaste, pancake mix, pancake
syrup, pork & beans.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



USHERS

March 3 Bill & Marla Brown
Glen & Gale Stipes

March 10 Dave Hoppes
Ryan Williams
Jim Galaske
Tom Fischer

March 17 Debbie Spears
Katlyn Spears
Laurie Meyer
Elaine Deichmann

March 24 Gloria Mannz
Georgia Wilkins
Kathy Raymond
Julie Loehring

March 29

March 31 Schwehr family

April 7 Dennis Williams
Pat Ruger
Ron Klaustermeier
Dave Edgar

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

ALTAR FLOWERS

Decorating Committee

Liturgists

March 3 Jim Galaske

March 10 Doug Brendel

March 17 Rick Smith

March 24 Jackie Estes

March 31 Georgia Wilkins

April 7 Virginia Bailey

GREETERS

March 3 Jim & Claudia Galaske

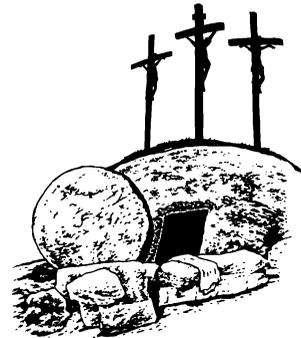
March 10 Doug Brendel family

March 17 Rick & Sherry Smith

March 24 Jackie Estes
Jennifer Estes

March 31 Georgia & Sam Wilkins

April 7 Mike & Amy Schroeter





- 1 Dannielle Dankenbring
William Schaubert
David Whittington
- 2 Pat Smith
- 5 Sue Hanks
- 6 Carolyn Klaustermeier
- 7 Adam Jaconis
- 10 Linda Ingersoll
- 11 David Edgar
Mary Emmons
Chuck Toennies
- 12 Jon Nemnich
- 14 Krista Adelhardt
Otis Carver
- 15 Bud Adelhardt
Maureen Heuser
Brian Weder
- 16 Irene Hall
Andrew Kassing
Gloria Mannz
- 20 Andy Raymond
- 21 Dave Friederich
Irv Kassing
- 23 Mildred Kruckeberg
- 24 Carl Hoenig
Terry Meyer
- 25 Edwin Whittington
- 28 Kelsey Smith
- 29 Carol Maedge
- 30 Ron Klaustermeier
Laura Lally
Harold Smith



We want to thank all who offered prayers in our behalf, and for all of the cards and well wishes. Your spiritual help was a true blessing and we thank you, the Church, and God for our recovery and well being. We are about to leave the rehab facility and go back to our apartment at Cederlake village in Plainfield.

Bill & Lorna Schaubert

Dear Friends,
Joe and I wish to extend to you a belated thank you for all the Christmas cards and gifts you sent to us. His smiles were special to witness. He also enjoyed the birthday cards and again his smiles were special. We thank you for caring.

Sincerely,
Joe and Jacquelyn Estes

Thank you for all the get well cards, words of encouragement, and prayers that were sent to me while I was recovering from my recent surgery. It was truly appreciated. A special thank you goes to Stephanie who drove me over to the hospital the morning of the surgery.

God Bless You
Donna Bingham

It Happened Here – 35 Years Ago

A special congregational meeting was held on February 12, 1978 for the purpose of presenting the report on the financial campaign for the Remodeling & Expansion Fund. The financial reflecting of cash donations of \$11,644, pledges totaling \$34,613 and bond purchases of \$10,200. It was the feeling of the committee that the church could not proceed with the building program at that time. A motion was passed that the building program be put on hold. The Finance Board will meet to determine disposition of funds collected.

Men's Fellowship

The Couples Club and the Women's Guild will sponsor the Chicken Supper. The tentative date is set for April 15.

After some discussion, it was decided to disband the Men's Fellowship. The charter and record books are to be put in the church office, and the Treasurer's balance is to be given to the O.C.W.M. Fund.

Women's Guild

Report of the Auditing Committee found the books in good order. We voted to send Hitz Home Auxiliary dues for 100% membership. The March salad luncheon will be changed

to the May meeting due to conflicts. It was voted to not take any more banquets until June.

Sunday School

The annual Easter egg hunt will be on Saturday, March 25 from 2 to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Hitz Home

"I'm sure the residents and staff, like the rest of us, are ready for spring to arrive. Between the flu epidemic and one of those old time winters that our grandparents talked about, we will appreciate a change."

The Home is very much in need of washable and disposable pads. Kits will be assembled on March 2nd and we will make washable pads at the church on March 7 from 9 a.m. until noon. Please help us with this project.

Couple's Club

A beautifully decorated Valentine box was a tremendous success and we all did a little reminiscing of school days gone by.

It was reported that the Brotherhood asked us to serve as sponsor of the Chicken Supper on April 15th. We are happy to accept and feel honored that we were asked.

We will be going to the Showboat Dinner Theater on March 12 for a noon show and meal.

Christian Board of Education

The Women's Guild has turned the library over to the board. So we now need a librarian. The money from the Christmas offering will be divided between DuBois and Hitz. The 350 unsold coins minted for the Bicentennial were given to the Board. It was suggested they be given as prizes for perfect attendance.

Finance Board

Many members requested that their cash donations be put into a fund which will continue to accrue interest and form a more solid base for a financial drive for a future building program. Envelopes are available in the Narthex for continuation of pledges and donations to the building program.

Senior Youth Fellowship

We will once again be having an Easter breakfast after the Sunrise Service. There will be a charge of \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children. There will be coffee cake, doughnuts and beverages. We will be playing volleyball and basketball on March 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at McCray Dewey. There will be a lock-in at the church on Friday, March 3, starting at 7 p.m. and ending at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. There will be a charge of \$2.00 per person for tacos and drinks. Reservations must

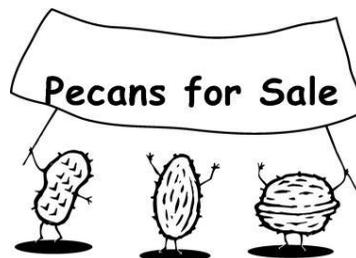
be made by March 2. (Bring your own drinks.)

Financial Statement

(As of January 31, 1978)

Balance on hand in General Fund:
\$226.74.

Balance on hand in Building,
Memorial, and Cemetery Fund:
\$1914.95.



The pecans are almost gone!
Did you get some? Hurry!



**Women's Guild Spring Salad
Luncheon
March 20
Noon**



Jarvis Township Senior Center Has a LOT to offer

The Search committee has great news! We have a pastoral candidate!

Pastor Doug Seagle and his wife, Jill, are from Pennsylvania. The Search committee spent time with Pastor Doug, Jill, and their two youngest children in February.

We are preparing for a trial sermon. As soon as we have a date we will let the entire congregation know. Letters will be sent to every member's home address, announcements will be made at every church board meeting as well as during the announcements on Sunday mornings, and an email message will be sent from the church office.



The Jarvis Township Senior Citizens Center, located in Tri-Township Park in Troy, has a lot to offer to all ages. From a daily hot nutritious lunch served at the center or delivered to those who are homebound, to local transportation, fun activities, entertainment, information/education on many topics, and exercise. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Many volunteer activities are available at the center. Drivers are always needed to deliver Meals on Wheels. A newsletter is available every month which includes a menu and activity calendar. A suggested donation is requested for meals and transportation provided to those ages 60 and over and their spouses. All others are welcome for a set fee! The Jarvis Township Corporation invites anyone age 55 and over to join the Corporation. This group is instrumental in fundraising and support to the senior center while carrying out God's work. The group meets on the first Thursday of each month, beginning with a meal followed by the meeting and entertainment. Call the center at 667-2022 for more information.



Rotation Schedule

March - The Empty Tomb

- | | | |
|------|-------|------------------|
| 3/3 | Story | Amy Schroeter |
| 3/10 | Art | Carol K. & Mandy |
| 3/17 | Games | High School |
| 3/24 | Music | Donna Bingham |

3/31  Easter Party



SING – SING – SING

Friedens Kidz are learning songs to be performed during worship. Audrey Deeren & Donna Bingham are meeting with the Kidz every Sunday morning in the Theater 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 don't be late!



Fun Activities for all!



Saturday, March 9
Camelot Bowling Alley
Beltline Road, Collinsville
FREE



We have classes for all
ages!
Everyone is welcome!

Stewardship Message

Stewards of Our Relationship with Money

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Isaiah 55:1

What a concept: no money, no problem. Come, buy and eat! How can we buy wine and milk, or anything, without money?

Are we so entangled in a life defined by earning and spending – getting what we want if we have money or doing without if we don't – that we may not consider there's another way? The prophet Isaiah promises us there is; a life profoundly connected to the source that meets our deepest needs.

Isaiah asks bluntly: *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Isaiah 55:2*

We are confronted by the smallness of our vision. During Lent we are invited to examine our lives so that we may reconnect to that which is "bread" for us. Lent offers an opportunity to

repent, to turn to a new vision. Listen carefully: eat, delight yourself. Make sure it's the rich food intended for God's beloved. Priceless!

A message by Doris Powell, author of Stewards in the Household of God: a Resource for Holistic Year-round Stewardship.

March 2013

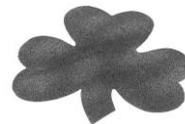
God is still speaking,



This resource is a free service and is made possible by your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.



Our Women's Retreat was great fun! Thank you to all who participated in any way! It couldn't have happened without you!



St. Patrick's Day
March 17

Holy Day for Atheists

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.

The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood, objecting to the ruling, saying, "Your honor, how can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others, the Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant." The lawyer said, "Your honor, we are unaware of any special observances or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus it is the opinion of this court that if your client says

there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned."

(Received in an email)



DuBois Camp Day at St. John's UCC Collinsville FREE!

WHEN: Sunday, March 10th
WHO: 4th – 7th grade kids
Come join the fun for an afternoon of
camp activities!
Pick up your permission slip from
Stephanie.
If you plan on attending this event
your name needs to be
on the list outside the Sunday school
office.



Women's Guild

The Women's Guild met on February 20, 2013 at 1:00 PM. An interesting meeting was held, with discussions on many subjects.

It was reported that there is only one case of pecans left. It is urged to get your pecans soon, as they are almost gone.

It was announced that the World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 1 at the Bethel Baptist Church at 10:00 AM. Friedens will participate with several members taking part in the program.

The Women's Guild will provide cake and coffee at the community Lenten service on February 27.

Discussion was held on the changes in the Fellowship Hall rental. Several suggestions were offered. Virginia said the proposed changes will also be discussed with the council, and final changes will be made at that time.

The March meeting is the annual Spring Salad Luncheon, on March 20, at noon. Members are urged to attend, and invite their friends to join the group for fun and good food. Just bring a salad.

The hostesses for March are Kay Brendel and Linda Grotefendt.

The Ministries Unlimited items for March are: Shampoo, toothpaste, pancake mix, pancake syrup, pork & beans.



It is coming....watch your mailbox!



www.friedensucc-troy.org