

Greetings and peace,

Albert Einstein is reported to have said, "If I had an hour to solve a problem and my life depended on the solution, I would spend the first fifty-five minutes determining the proper question to ask, for once I knew the proper question, I could solve the problem in less than five minutes." (Pathway to renewal, P. 177)

Questions are very important and we all have them. I fear, however, that there are many times and instances in the life of our congregation that we are focused on the wrong questions. For instance, pay closer attention at the next committee meeting that you attend (and it could be any of them) and take notice to how many of the questions that are asked; are asked with the Kingdom of God being absent. How many times do we question out of fear or personal agenda? How many times do we question out of stubbornness or pride and forget why we are really there?

In relation to this, I would like for each of you to take a moment this month to ponder the following questions:

1. Recall a moment when you experienced God's congregation really "being church." How would the congregation be different if that were the norm?
2. What do you see as the fundamental purpose of God's church? What difference is a congregation supposed to make in the lives of its members and in its surrounding community?
3. What Scriptures are foundational to your understanding of what God's church is supposed to be and do?
4. What's your picture of a better future for God's congregation? On a scale of one to ten, with one being low and ten being high, how able and willing are you to let go of that picture to hear God's ideas? What would help you feel more able and willing?
5. What do you sense will be needed by God's congregation to help people dream His dream for it? (Pathway to Renewal, P. 109)

I would love to hear some of your thoughts and responses so please share. Until next time may God's grace and peace be with you in all that you do.

Pastor Doug

# FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for March

Sunday School	Worship
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3/2	Snow day, no church	
3/5	Ash Wednesday	59
3/9	42	114
3/16		
3/23		

## Hospitalized:

Carl Hoenig

## Memorial Service:

Vivian Smith, March 29, 2014.

Newsletter articles are due on **April 20<sup>th</sup>**

You may:

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

[friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com](mailto:friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com)

- fax the article: 667-6006



Items collected for Ministries Unlimited in March were:

- 1 Hamburger Helper
- 2 dry pasta
- 1 large chicken broth
- 2 pasta dinners
- 1 can tomatoes
- 4 pkgs. pancake & waffle mix
- 2 cans soup
- 3 boxes crackers
- 3 cake mixes
- 3 cans mushrooms
- 5 boxes cereal
- 2 bottles syrup
- 5 pasta sauce
- 2 large cans soup
- 5 cans pork & beans
- 4 jars jelly
- 1 can black beans
- 4 cans Manwich
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 jar popcorn
- 1 bottle Crisco oil
- 2 cans great northern beans
- 1 jar maraschino cherries
- 1 box Rice a Roni
- 2 large cans pork & beans

Thank you for your donation! The items for **April** are: **instant oatmeal, bath soap, macaroni and cheese.**

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## Ushers

**April 6**

Pat Ruger  
Kenny Grotefendt  
Ed Whittington

**April 13**

Rick and Sherry Smith  
Wayne and Julie Loehring

**April 20**

7:00 a.m.  
Schwehr family  
10:15 a.m.

Ryan Williams  
Tom Fischer  
Dave Hoppes  
Doug Brendel

**April 27**

Georgia Wilkins  
Gloria Mannz  
Carol Deloney  
Marla Brown

**May 4**

Harold and Mary Ellen  
Schwehr  
Dave and Pat Edgar

## Liturgists

**April 6**

Jenny Ruger

**April 13**

Deb Byrd

**April 20**

( 7:00)

Harold Schwehr Family

(10:15)

Doug Brendel

**April 27**

Joe Smith

**May 4**

Gabriel Gregson

**May 11**

Katelyn Spears



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





## April

- 2 Jane Maedge
- 3 Marian Whittington
- 4 Chris Miller
- 5 Ruby Schultze
- 8 Judy Nowlin  
Clara French
- 11 Karen Ferguson
- 12 Vicki Fischer
- 15 Sandy Harbison  
Taylor Whittington  
Betty Schiller
- 19 Kendall Ruger
- 26 Bill Schaubert  
Tracy Bishop
- 27 Amanda Stipes  
Abby Raymond
- 29 Ryan Williams

### ***Tricky Tray ~ April 27<sup>th</sup>***

Family Event & VBS Fundraiser  
Dinner at 5 p.m.

If you have items to donate please put them on the tables in Fellowship Hall beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate your donations! Tickets are available on Sundays before and

after worship service, and in the office during the week.



The next Hobby Bee will be on Thursday, April 24. We'll meet at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall, and go until noon. Bring a project to work on, or just observe and learn something new, or help work on the group project. For April, the group project will be whimsical bowls. We will be adding the finishing decorations onto some old bowls, turning trash to treasure. We saw a sample and they are really cute! All supplies and instructions will be provided. These bowls will be for sale later in the year at the Quilt & Art Show, but each project worker will take one home the day of the Bee. Light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Schiller at 288-1722 (home) or 616-6427 (cell) or [bettys0405@yahoo.com](mailto:bettys0405@yahoo.com)

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**SUCCESS!!!!**

We had 27 units donated during our March 1<sup>st</sup> Blood Drive! Thank you!

## ***It Happened Here – 35 Years Ago***

### **Young Adult Group Formed**

March 25<sup>th</sup> served as the kick-off meeting for interested young adults in our church. There were eleven people in attendance and the decision was made to meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bill Lee and Miss Linda Rinkel are currently going to serve as co-leaders. If you are between 18 and 30 and looking for fellowship, this is your chance. The group decided to remain open to married persons as well.

### **Couples Club**

For our activity in May, we will have a Progressive Dinner. A good time was had by all at the bowling party on March 18<sup>th</sup> with a very nice dinner afterwards at Roustio's.

### **Mission Alive**

Have you ever heard it said “you don't have to go to church to be a Christian”? Many people have been helped to be better Christians because they go to church. It is easy to see why when you stop to think. When a person attends and financially supports a church, in a sense he is saying “I believe in what I'm doing. I love the Lord and I trust Him.” What follows is that the person is able to

lead a richer fuller, more responsible life in the service of God and his fellow man. There was once a man who could not hear or speak, but he went to church almost every Sunday. A man that always sat next to him handed him a piece of paper that read “Why do you bother to go to church anyway? You can't talk or sing, and you can't hear what's going on.” The man who couldn't hear or speak wrote down in reply “I want to show whose side I'm on.”

### **Children's Sunday**

At the request of the Sunday School teachers, we will be holding a special Sunday to honor the children of the church. Children's Sunday will be April 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and will end by 10:30 a.m. with the service being conducted by the Sunday School. We invite you to come and participate in the joy of our children. See you in church on the 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. This will be a combined service with the children participating.

## **Congregational Meeting**



April 27<sup>th</sup>



## Women's Guild

The Women's Guild held the annual Salad Luncheon on Wednesday March 19, 2014 at noon. Salads of every kind were lined up on the tables. It was a delicious feast, topped off with yummy desserts provided by Virginia Bailey and Vicki Fischer.

Audrey Deeren shared inspirational stories about Words to Live By, which covered laughter, kid's wisdom, the final analysis, and being a phenomenal woman. After devotions, the group played a fun game to test everyone's skill at guessing grocery prices, with Kay Brendel taking first prize.

Then we continued with a meeting. Virginia Bailey reported World Day of Prayer was a good event, we had several people attend, and Friedens will be the host church next year. Discussion continued on name tags for kitchen drawers, sink faucets, and repair to the divider for the kitchen counter. Vicki Fischer and Gloria Mannz reported that they finished the basket for the Women's Guild donation to the Dubois fundraiser.

The cake signup sheet was confirmed for the Lenten service on 03/26/14. Details for the Hobby Bee were

reviewed, and Diana Bauer showed us a sample of the April project. It was decided that we would donate a basket to Tricky Tray. Also, the purchase of additional ceiling do-dads (aka hanging clips) was approved. Virginia Bailey was the attendance prize winner.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday April 16, 2014 at 7:00pm. Thelma Huston will do the devotions, and hostesses will be Kay Brendel and Sue Hanks. All women at Friedens are members of the Women's Guild, and we hope to see you next month.

## *Tricky Tray April 27th*

Please help make this fundraiser a success by donating a tray and attending this fun family event. The children have been earning tickets for a month now, so they will be able to do a lot of shopping!

**PLEASE, ONLY NEW OR LIKE NEW ITEMS!**

If you work for a company who would be willing to donate a prize we would be extremely grateful.



VBS  
Fundraiser



## April

- 6 Camp day, make card for Priscilla and make sandwiches
- 13 Easter lesson Wave Palms
- 20 Easter Party, Pat & Jenny Ruger
- 27 Tricky Tray Sunday, marking tickets & shopping

## May

- 4 Game Day!
- 11 Mother's Day –  
Teacher Appreciation Breakfast  
(all Friedens Kids to help)
- 18 No Sunday School  
VBS Staff Meeting
- 25 No Sunday School

## WEIRD ANIMALS!

VBS registration forms are now available! VBS will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> children 3years old – 6<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome.

Where: Friedens UCC

Who: children 3 years old – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

When: June 23 – 27<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00 – 8:30

Invite your friends! Call the church office to register or print the registration form that you can find on Friedens website. Send the form to the church or drop off in the church office. This is going to be a very special VBS that you don't want to miss!

### ***DuBois Fun Day April 6<sup>th</sup>!***

We will leave following the worship service for a camp day of FUN! Please sign up on the board or call Stephanie if you plan on attending. We want to have enough lunch sacks and a ride for everyone. We should return to Friedens by 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 20th



## Stewards of Holy Ground

*And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Matthew 17:1-2*

### Transfiguration?

It takes me back to a time when I was lured to Ledges State Park by a beautiful autumn day. There I hiked under a canopy of reds and golds, up and up a hill. After about two hours I came out along the edge of the hillside. There, stretched out before me, was the broad Des Moines River valley, full of sunlight and crisp fresh air. I stood and drank it in.

Then I followed the trail around a corner and there, right on the edge of the drop-off, was a baby oak tree. It was about 12" tall, merrily waving its 6 or 7 adult-sized leaves in the breeze. The sunshine caught the leaves and

turned them blazing red... the burning bush! I'm standing on holy ground.

Really, all God's precious earth is holy ground.

God has a way of providing transfiguration moments... a mountain top experience (*Matt 17:1-2*), a burning bush experience (*Exodus 3:2-3*). Perhaps we might celebrate Earth Day (April 22) this year with a prayer of profound thanks for all of God's creation and an act of caring for the earth which sustains us.

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

*April 2014*

God is still speaking,

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



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



~Looking for Graduates~

Please call the church office by *April 14<sup>th</sup>* if you would like to have the name of your graduate (high school, college, technical or trade school, etc.) publicized in the May issue of the *Circuit Rider*.



Easter Services 7 a.m. + 10:15 a.m.