



Grace and Peace to each one of you!

You may or may not realize it but on January 6th we celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord. Epiphany literally means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles – that is, to all nations. With that being said there is a little known tradition that many Christians celebrate on January 5th. It is a service for the blessing of a home at Epiphany.

Matthew writes that when the Magi saw the shining star stop overhead, they were filled with joy. “On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, His mother.” (Matthew 2: 10-11) In the home, Christ is met in family and friends, in visitors and strangers. In the home faith is shared, nurtured, and put into action. In the home, Christ is welcome.

On January 5th I encourage each family in our congregation to gather together to share a meal. Invite friends and neighbors to share in the many blessings God has given us. And then, if you are so inspired, gather for a blessing of the home. Following a European tradition a visual blessing may be inscribed with white chalk above the main entrance of the home. For example 20 + CMB + 14 would be the inscription above your door. This has two meaning:

1. It describes the magi of old known as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar who followed the star of God’s Son who came to dwell among us.
2. 20 and the 14 = the year 2014, CMB stands for the ancient Latin blessing *Christe mansionem benedica* (Christ bless this house), the + stands for “Christ bless this house” and the other + stands for “and remain with us throughout the year.”

The Service: (Someone may lead the greeting and blessing while another reads the Scripture)

Begin with your visual blessing over the main entrance: 20+CMB+14

The Greeting:

May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. (Proverbs 24: 3-4)

The Reading

As we prepare to ask God's blessing upon this household, let us listen to the Word of Scripture.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From His fullness we have all received grace upon grace. (John 1: 1-4, 14, 16)

The Prayer of Blessing

O God, You revealed Your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that You bless this home and all who live here with Your gracious presence. May Your love be our inspiration, Your wisdom our guide, Your truth our light, and Your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

At this time everyone may walk from room to room, blessing the house with incense or by sprinkling water, perhaps using a branch from an ever green. (Sundays and Seasons, P. 55)

As I close, it is my hope and prayer that God will richly bless each and every one of you in this new year as we continue to build God's Kingdom together as a family at Friedens.

Pastor Doug

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for December:

Sunday School		Worship
12/1	48	123
12/8	54	115
12/15	47	151
12/22	No SS	138

Baptisms:

Rayne Lynn Smith, daughter of Sean Smith and Sommer Schilling, was baptized on December 8, 2013.

Godparents are Aaron Jaconis and Amanda Gain.

Ryan Sean Smith and Phillip Christopher Smith, sons of Patrick and Amanda Smith, were baptized on December 8, 2013. Godparents are Sean Smith and Jamie Todd.



We want to thank Pastor Doug for a beautiful service, Jennifer King for playing the organ and piano, Olivia Bosaw for her solo performance of "On Eagles Wings" and Judy Nowlin for preparing the bulletin for our first annual Community Cemetery Memorial Service. It was a very touching and memorable service.

Cemetery Committee,
Bob, Diane, Donna, Guideon, Jim and Stephanie

Newsletter articles are due on **January 19**.

You may:

- bring your articles to the office
- e-mail them to: friedenscircuitrider@hotmail.com
- fax the article: 667-6006



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS




January

Ushers

Jan. 5	Doug & Debbie Brendel John & Carol Deloney
Jan. 12	Larry Bliss Lloyd Bliss Dave Hoppes Jim Galaske
Jan. 19	Ed Whittington Tom Fischer Kenny Grotefendt Dennis Williams
Jan. 26	Julie Loehring Gladys Huston JoAnn Longhi Jackie Estes
Feb. 2	Rick & Sherry Smith Bill & Marla Brown

If you cant be present on your day, please call
Yvonne, 667-8409

Altar Flowers

Donna Bingham

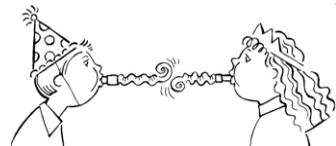
Greeters

Jan. 5 Lally family

Liturgists

Jan. 5	Laura Lally
Jan. 12	Jeff Estes
Jan. 19	Julie Loehring
Jan. 26	Gabriel Gregson
Feb. 2	

4	Annaliese Dankenbring Jeffery Seymore II
6	Aaron Jaconis Harold Schwehr
7	Aidan Johnson
9	Fred Keil Crystal Deichmann
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	David Hoppes



It Happened Here – 35 Years Ago

It must have been quiet time after all the Christmas activities.

If He Came To Your House

When you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door,
With arms outstretched in welcome to your Heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines, and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you hide your worldly music and some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?

And I wonder – if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you maybe change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?

Or would you hope they stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus came in person to spend some time with you.

Blood Drive Update

We achieved our goal of 20 units!!
THANK YOU to everyone who had a part in helping to work at the blood drive and/or donated blood. With these 20 units up to 60 lives will be affected!



January 26



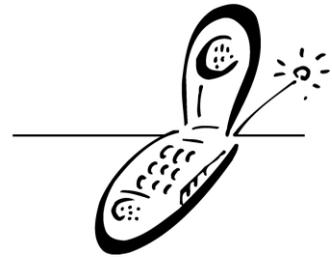
Items collected for Ministries Unlimited in December were:

- 36 bottle shampoo
- 26 cans vegetables
- 10 deodorant
- 7 boxes macaroni & cheese
- 1 can chili
- 4 bars soap
- 3 boxes fudge brownie mix
- 3 boxes stuffing mix
- 1 can French fried onions
- 1 large can baked beans
- 4 cans pork and beans
- 1 bottle barbecue sauce
- 1 bottle Miracle Whip
- 1 can olives
- 2 cans pumpkin
- 1 large can pumpkin mix
- 3 cans milk
- 2 cans candied yams
- 2 cans fruit
- 4 boxes cereal
- 1 box fruit snacks
- 2 cans pasta
- 1 bag brown rice
- 5 cake mixes
- 1 box pasta
- 1 box salt
- 1 can great northern beans
- 1 can spaghetti sauce

- 11 cans soup
- 2 packages spaghetti
- 2 jars jelly
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 pair socks
- 1 game

Thank you for your donation!

The items for **January** are: **toilet paper, cereal, crackers, and sanitary supplies.**



Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone? We carried it. We flipped through it throughout the day. We went home to get it if we forgot it. We received messages from the text. We couldn't live without it. We gave it to kids as gifts. We used it in case of emergency. One more thing, it would never be disconnected, Jesus has already paid the bill.



Women's Guild

The Fellowship Hall was festively decorated for the Women's Guild annual Christmas Banquet and Auction on Wednesday 12/18/13. Dinner started at 6:30 and included a variety of side dishes to go along with fried chicken. The dessert table had a large selection of cookies and other sweet treats. Everything was delicious; thanks to the many good cooks we have at Friedens.

Audrey Deeren provided the entertainment, starting us off with a page of word games related to Christmas. After our dinner feast, we sang Christmas carols, but with some untraditional words to the music. Audrey always does a good job of putting us in a happy mood.

There was a brief ceremony to install the new officers. Virginia Bailey did a wonderful job the past two years as President of the Women's Guild, and now must pass the job on. Officers for the next two years are: Betty Schiller - President; Donna Bingham - Vice President; Sue Hanks - Secretary; JoAnn Longhi - Treasurer.

Next up was the auction. Mary Emmons and Debbie Byrd were the auctioneers for the evening. They both did a great job, even bumping up the final bid in some cases. There were many nice items to buy,

with all proceeds going to Dubois Center and Hoyleton Home.

The next Women's Guild meeting will be on January 15, 2014 at 1:00 pm. This will be a daytime meeting. Betty Schiller will do the devotions, and hostesses will be Thelma Huston and Jane Maedge. All women from Friedens are members of the Women's Guild, and we'd love to see you at the meeting.



The Shrimp Dinner is coming!



Sunday School

Happy New Year!

Friedens Kidz were busy during December and we have many to thank! We want to thank the many folks who help make our Christmas holiday so special.

1st thank you to Debbie Byrd for all the work she put into the ceramic Christmas trees. All Sunday school Kidz will be able to keep their tree for many years to remember Christmas at Friedens.

Eric Bosaw is owed many thanks for all the time he spent making everyone smile!

Bob Little, thank you for your generosity in all of our Sunday School projects.

Thank you to all of our sound crew, you put in so much time and you do an awesome job!

Thank you to all who planned, helped and participated at the Santa Breakfast.

Despite the bad weather we had 95 attend and about 30 helpers. A wonderful time was had by all. Thank you to Donna Bingham, Jennifer King and Barb Toennies for directing the Sunday School Christmas program. Thank you to Ron Harbison for all of your help with the program. Thank you to all the Kidz for a great performance! The play and music was a true delight! Friedens Puppets brought smiles to all and were great fun!

We especially thank the parents, grandparents and guardians for bringing their children to all of the events this December. We know we kept you busy, your effort were greatly appreciated.

Christmas Caroling was great fun and so many of our young people attended! They brought great joy to many.

Thank you to Amy Schroeter and the Youth for organizing and making the Giving Tree a wonderful success!

Looking forward to January we will be back to our regular schedule - 9:00 opening. If you could have your children in the theater by 8:55 it would make it easier for us to get started on time. The staff plans for a full 45 minutes of lessons and we want to be respectful of their time and efforts.

Where Mom's Connect class will be held on January 12th & 26th (all women welcome)

Quote for the month: "A woman is like a tea bag-you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water." -

Eleanor Roosevelt

Please join us for great conversation & friendship!

New Curriculum for the adult class begins in January. Come join us, we have room for all!

**ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
BEGIN AT 9:00 a.m.**

Please be prompt we don't want you to miss anything!

*Confirmation class begins
at 8:45 a.m.!*



At DuBois

Winter Weekend Katelyn Gebhart & Kristin Lally will be attending this fun event mid month.

Festival of Faith is being held February 15-16 this is an event for all 6th – 8th graders

Have your paperwork turned in to Stephanie by January 5th.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR
YOUTH**

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, January 24th

Doors Open 6:30p.m.

1st Question 7:00 p.m. Sharp
\$10.00 per person, teams of 8
Friedens Fellowship Hall



Hosts: Doug & Debbie Brendel
Plus the God Squad!

Money made from this event stays
with the youth!

Please call the office and reserve a
table

Tell your friends and family
Everyone has fun at Friedens
Trivia!

Happy New Year  *Happy New Year*  *Happy New Year*

Pastor Doug's Office Hours

Monday –Thursday from 9-noon, Pastor Doug will be in the church office, unless he is needed elsewhere. In the afternoons he will be visiting church members at homes, hospitals or nursing homes. Friday and Saturday are his days off, but he will be available for emergencies. Please give Pastor or Judy a call if you would like to schedule a time to meet with him.

Church 667-6535, Home 416-7676, Cell 570-713-7363.

pastor@friedensucc-troy.org or
augustine104@charter.net

MARTIN
LUTHER
KING JR.
Day



The church office will be closed on January 20th in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



The Weaver

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me;
I may not choose the colors,
He knows what they should be;
For He can view the pattern
Upon the upper side,
While I can see it only
On this the underside.

Sometimes He weaveth sorrow,
Which seems strange to me;
But I will trust His judgment,
And work as faithfully
'Tis He who fills the shuttle,
He knows just what is best,
So I shall weave in earnest
And leave with Him the rest.

Not til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why –
The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

Stewardship Message Stewards of Our Relationship with God

*Be still and know that I am God.
– Psalm 46:10*

In all our living we belong to God. Stewardship begins with our relationship with God. We've experienced it in the midst of a rush of celebrations and hope-filled worship during the Christmas season. Now experience a season of Sabbath rest in God to deepen that relationship. Sabbath is simply setting aside time to delight in God, a gift to God and oneself in the midst of our rushing, checklists, productivity, and burn-out.

As the Rev. Rochelle Stackhouse said in *The Gifting God*, "God gives, in the midst of relationships, to create, to strengthen and honor, and with the intimacy of one desiring deep and fruitful relationships."

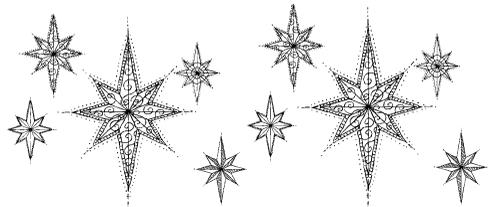
There are many ways of Sabbath keeping. Some people prefer to set aside a specific time daily or weekly to engage in particular spiritual practices. Others prefer to incorporate spiritual practices into the midst of daily life. Through spiritual practices, Christians through the ages have encountered God in life-renewing ways.

Prayer is the most traditional but there are many others – fasting, hospitality, forgiveness, gratitude, meditation, bible study, journaling, worship, listening,

living simply, acts of compassion and justice, honoring the body, artistic expression... We become what we practice. As centers of hope and transformation, local churches help people live into a new way of life.

*A message from Stewards in the Household of
God: a Resource for Holistic
Year-round Stewardship available from United
Church of Christ Resources.
Reprinted from January 2012*

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



**Winter Weekend
January 18 - 20, 2014**



Friedens' mission for the first quarter of 2014 is One Great Hour of Sharing. Your support would be greatly appreciated!



Welcome to our new and returning members of the various church boards!
THANK YOU for serving!

The Christian Family

A Christian family...

...lives the Christian life and practices the presence of God so that the children come to accept God as the greatest reality of life.

...is one in which each member is accepted and respected as a person having sacred worth.

...accepts the responsibility of worship and instruction, thereby developing the spiritual life of each person.

...manifests a faith in God, observes daily prayer and says grace at meals.

...is committed to behavior in keeping with Christian ideals for family relations, community life, and national and world citizenship.

