

Greetings and peace in the name of Jesus!!

“When I find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me. Speaking words of wisdom, let it be. And in my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me. Speaking words of wisdom, let it be, let it be.” Hmm...gotta tell ya, the Fab4 had something going for them because they seemed to resonate with a generation like no other secular music group ever did. And when they wrote the song “Let it Be,” I truly do not know the purpose or the meaning behind it. But I know, that has been a song that I think about quite often and in my spare time (when I have some) sit at the piano in the sanctuary and play and sing. It comforts me for some reason and brings a lot of different meaning to my life. But the part I want to focus this month is the simple title. The words “Let it be”



Did you realize that whenever we say “Amen,” whether it is to the Lord’s Prayer or the prayers of the church, or at a board meeting or in private, we are in essence saying “Let it be so?” That means that whatever we have prayed for before Jesus Christ, we are asking Him to let these things happen if it be His will.

This little word (Amen) has always amazed me. It is a powerful word that is taken for granted and seems to be an afterthought to the many petitions that are prayed in the church to God. As we all know, prayer is a powerful thing, more powerful than we can ever imagine. But to say that word at the end of our petition to God means everything. It means that when we pray we are truly asking God to bless and do the things we are asking. Think about that the next time we speak this word in earnest and then get ready..... because God has a way of giving you just what you ask for!! That answer may not be in the form that you think it will be and it may not be what you were expecting because our God is a wonderful, creating, surprising God that will challenge us beyond what we think we are capable of handling.

From what I have seen in the past year or so, this congregation is capable of handling a lot more than you think. Certainly tradition and the way we have always done things weigh heavy on our minds and hearts and try to drag us back to the same old things over and over.

It is my hope that as we move through this year together that all of us will be open and prayerful as to where God may lead us. If we can do this, He may just lead us somewhere we have never been before. It is important that we remain open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and when that Spirit speaks we need to be willing to say "Let it be so." Your will and not mine.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Doug.

Sunday morning fellowship, it's back! All are invited to our Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings between 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. for coffee and fellowship.



Council email address: [Council@friedensucc-troy.org](mailto:Council@friedensucc-troy.org)



Movie matinee on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be showing the movie "The Best of Me", based on the Nicholas Sparks book. The movie begins at 12:30...don't be late. It's FREE!!!



**Ushers**

- Feb. 1** Rick & Sherry Smith  
John & Carol Deloney
- Feb. 8** Bill & Marla Brown  
Kellen King  
Crystal Gebhart
- Feb. 15** Ron & Carol Klaustermeier  
Otis & Katie Carver
- Feb. 22** Dennis & Cindy Westfall  
Wayne & Julie Loehring
- March 1** Pat Ruger  
Kenny Grotefendt  
Dennis Williams  
Tom Fischer

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

**Liturgists**

- Feb. 1** Sean Smith
- Feb. 8** Virginia Bailey
- Feb. 15** Joe Smith
- Feb. 22** Claudia Galaske
- Mar. 1** Marla Brown



**Bus Drivers and  
Helpers**

- Feb. 1** Tom Fischer  
Laura Lally
- Feb. 8** Mike Byrd  
Debbie Byrd
- Feb. 15** Roy McMillan  
Faye McMillan
- Feb. 22** Jack Van Hoose  
TBD
- March 1** Jim Galaske  
Claudia Galaske

**If you cannot help on your scheduled day,  
please call one of the others to switch.**



**All church cleaning day, Saturday,  
February 21, 9 - noon**

## Attendance for January

	Sunday School	Worship
1/4	19	95
1/11	45	72
1/18	46	102
1/25	47	120

### Hospitalized:

JoAnn Longhi  
Donna Bingham

### Death:

Jim Kranz, born 3/26/18, died 1/18/15,  
funeral 1/24/15.

Newsletter articles are  
due on **February 15th**

You may:

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

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

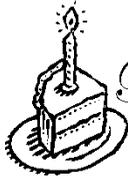
- fax the article: 667-6006



Items collected for  
Ministries Unlimited in  
January were:

7 boxes macaroni and cheese  
5 cans soup  
1 box stove top stuffing mix  
3 cans pork and beans  
8 cans vegetables  
4 boxes jell-o gelatin  
57 cans soda  
2 bags brown sugar  
5 cans fruit  
1 can pasta  
1 package pasta  
2 boxes cereal  
2 jars jelly  
2 boxes cake mix  
2 cans icing  
1 jar pasta sauce  
1 pkg.(4 rolls) toilet paper  
1 large can chicken breast  
1 pair gloves  
\$50.00 cash

Thank you for your donation! The  
items for **February** are: **vegetable  
soup, spaghetti sauce, crackers,  
jelly, and cake mix.**



## *Birthday Blessings*

### *February*

- 1 Bryan Chasteen
- 2 Wayne Ferguson  
Rebecca Fischer
- 4 David Morton
- 6 Bill Brown  
John Lally
- 8 Marcella Lindsay
- 12 Mary Ann Ambuehl
- 13 Stacy Matz
- 15 Claudia Galaske  
Anita Jarvis
- 16 Virginia Bailey
- 17 Evan Bosaw  
Karen Kronk  
Kathy Patton  
Tona Walker
- 27 Debra Gebhart
- 28 Linda Grotefendt
- 29 Lyle Willimann



### *Pastor Doug's Office Hours*

Mon. - Thurs., from 9 - noon, Pastor Doug will be at 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; however, 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](mailto:Pastor@friedensucc-troy.org) or  
[augustine104@charter.net](mailto:augustine104@charter.net)



Praying in Color: Drawing a New  
Path to God  
Spiritual Retreat for Women

March 27-28  
DuBois Center

For more information or to register online visit [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org);  
Cost: \$74 by March 6, \$84 after.  
Partial scholarships are available.  
Age: 18 and older.



Your generous donation of \$700.00 has helped brighten the lives of the people Hoyleton cares for. The families we serve often find themselves in circumstances they can't address on their own, and so we rely on the generosity of volunteers and donors like you to help support our ministry.

With gratitude,  
Chris L. Cox, MSW, LCSW  
President & CEO  
Hoyleton Ministries

We would like to thank each and every one of you who gave us Christmas gifts, cards, cookies, candies and treats during the holiday season. Friedens members are always so thoughtful and your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you all!

Pastor Doug, Judy, Tony,  
Stephanie & Jennifer

Thank you to all the "un-hanging of the greens" helpers! The job went quickly because of all the wonderful volunteers. The reorganizing and labeling will help next season, too.

Virginia Bailey

Dear Friends,  
Joe and I wish to thank you for the many cards, good wishes, and gifts at Christmas. We appreciate your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,  
Joe and Jackie Estes

Greeting, Blessings, and Happy New Year!

I have received the two envelopes of labels and your cash donation. I thank you for continuing to support the program with these gifts. I also thank you for the blessings you gave our children at Christmas. All of our children, families, and staff were truly blessed by the generosity of our churches this holiday. God bless you and stay warm.

Brenda Crisp  
UniPres Kindercottage

A sincere and heartfelt thank you is given for your generous contribution to help less fortunate families in the Troy area. We are so very grateful to friends such as you, who graciously give out of love to share joy and happiness with others. We thank you for your kindness, your commitment and your good heart. God bless you for helping us to help others.

Sincerely,  
Betty Cothran  
Pantry Administrator  
Ministries Unlimited

Thank you to Pastor Doug, my daughters and Friedens Faith Family for all of the concerns and prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. It was very much appreciated and I am blessed to have you all.

JoAnn Longhi

Many thanks to whoever gave my granddaughter, Kerry, the note with a \$25 WalMart gift card for me at Christmas. It was a very thoughtful gift and very much appreciated.

Mary Ellen Schwehr



## **50 Years of Faith and Fun ISC and DuBois Center**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3 – 8 p.m. at the  
Gateway Grizzlies Stadium

Cost: \$5 per person or \$10 per family (Includes games, does not include food and drinks.) For tickets contact Shirley Hoy at 618-281-7375 or [lahsjh21@gmail.com](mailto:lahsjh21@gmail.com) or Carol Faust at 618-281-4891 or [cjfaust@htc.net](mailto:cjfaust@htc.net).

More information next month!



April 18, 2015

Help prepare DuBois Center for  
Summer Camp!

Youth and adult fellowship groups, families, individuals, everyone is invited to lend a helping hand as we prepare our facilities for the busy summer camping season. Projects vary. There is wood to be stacked, leaves to be raked and buildings to be cleaned and painted. There are carpentry projects, as well as others requiring special skills. The work may not be glamorous, but it makes a big difference!

\*We will gather between 8:30-8:45 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m.

\*Lunch and supplies are provided but *call ahead* to reserve a spot and let us know about any group members with special skills.

\*Whatever tools and professional equipment you can bring will be greatly appreciated.

For more information contact DuBois Center, 618-787-2202, [dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org](mailto:dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org), [www.DuBoisCenter.org](http://www.DuBoisCenter.org)



Sunday School is available for everyone!  
3 year- olds through adults

Preschool teachers- Jenny Ruger & Pam Hildenbrand

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher- Pat Ruger & Jane Maedge

Confirmation class teacher- Pastor Doug

Adult class leaders- Julie Loehring, Kay Brendel & Georgia Wilkins

Adult Women's class leaders- Debbie Brendel, Claudia Galaske, Debbie Spears & Kathy Raymond

### **What is your favorite CANDY?**

1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade will be exploring the new CANDY curriculum.

Join us for some tasty fun!

### February Schedule

#### **1<sup>st</sup>: Movie Candy**

If you don't count the cost of going to a movie before you go, you may be in for a shock. Jesus wants us to count the cost of being a disciple, but when we compare that cost with what Jesus gave up for us, there's simply no comparison.

#### **8th: Chocolate**

It's easy to get down and discouraged in our fallen world, but if we have God in our lives, we don't have to stay down. God created the world and everything good that is in it. These good things remind us that God is good

#### **15th: Cotton Candy**

The world wants us to build our life on worldly things, things that are here today and gone tomorrow. God wants us to build our lives on a solid foundation, and that foundation is Jesus.

#### **22nd: Taffy**

Sometimes life stretches us through hardship and pain. When that happens, God uses our hard times to shape us into the person he wants us to be.



If you need a ride to Sunday worship service, call the office at 667-6535 and the church bus will come get you!

## Take Time to be in Awe

### LOVE BOLDLY

#### 8 Ways to Experience Awe Every Day

1. Seek and you shall find. Ask the Holy Spirit to be your eyes and ears to show you its glory. It is amazing what happens when we surrender.
2. Take time for you & God. Start or continue a daily habit of spending time with God before the busyness of the day starts. Start with scripture to ponder and give yourself time to be with it. It may be challenging to get up a little early but over time you might crave it!
3. Just breathe. Find moments of silence to just breathe and be still. This will calm your nervous system and your mind.
4. Turn it off. Take a TV and technology break to sit and talk with your family about their day or read together. Let your kids ask questions and be curious.
5. Be the change. Volunteer and let God work through you to serve others.
6. See the beauty around you. God created this beautiful world, find the joy in it. Talk to your kids about it. See the world through their eyes too.
7. Family time with no agenda. Be in awe of unplanned family time and let the mess take over!
8. Talk to your kids about God and find out what they think. The [Gabbit App](#) is a great conversation starter even for little kids. It is fun to hear what they really think.



SOS Sharing Our Supper

When: 2/25/15

Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall

Who: Everyone is welcome

Donations appreciated but not expected.

*SOS dinners will be on the last Wednesday of every month.*

## A Blessing for You This Month:

Though small and sometimes overlooked, every moment has the potential to be a powerful one. Grab hold of each moment this month, special or mundane, and know the inimitable influence you are in the lives of your children.

If Sunday School and church are important to parents, they will be important to their children. We hope to see you Sunday!



**Check This  
Out!**

Have you ever wondered how to get your events on the calendar on the Friedens website? Did you know that there is someone that maintains the

calendar and without your input, nothing is added?

Please email your events to: [friedenscalendar@gmail.com](mailto:friedenscalendar@gmail.com) If you don't have access to email, please write out your event and give the information to Julie Loehring.

## **Women's Retreat**

### ***A Garden Getaway***

Who: All ladies of all ages

When: March 28<sup>th</sup>

Where: Friedens Fellowship Hall

Details coming soon!



## **Sisters In Spirit:**

### **Healthy Eating and Abundant Living class**

You are wonderfully made! This class meets in the computer room at 9:00 am. Come join the fun! We laugh, share secrets, cook and have started our training for a 5K. Everyone is welcome. Who knows what's next but you will want to be a part of it!

## **Mixed Adult Class**

This group meets on Sunday mornings at 9 o'clock in the conference room. Come have coffee and join in the discussion of the day. We will discuss a popular topic from the current week. We would love for you to join us!



Sunday, February 1, 11:30 – 1:30  
Youth Group meeting at church.

## Reiki Classes

Take a step into realigning your physical, mental, and spiritual self. Join Virginia Bailey, and her friend, Richard Casey, for an evening of enlightening the mysteries of Reiki. Last month's *Circuit Rider* told you about the practice of Reiki and its many benefits. On, Friday, February 20, 2015, at 7:00 PM, in the fellowship hall, we will be telling the story of Reiki, and answering your questions. For those of you who wish to continue into the Reiki training, we will set up dates at that time.

If you have any questions, or want to know a bit more before that time, please feel free to contact Virginia and chat with her about this discipline.

Sunday, February 15, Festival of Faith at DuBois Center for all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. (This is an overnight event)

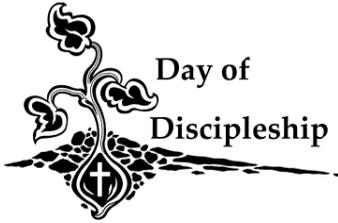


Friedens is hosting the World Day of Prayer this year, with the focus on

the Bahamas. . The date is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Other Troy churches will be participating in the program. Friedens will be serving lunch following the program. We urge our congregation, men and women, to attend this event. People all around the world will be praying at the same time we are. What a wonderful opportunity this is to perhaps heal the world around us.



February 28  
Fellowship Hall  
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.



Day of  
Discipleship

Workshops for Church Members

*Purpose:* To take home an abundance of information that will help church members refresh, renew and re-engage through mission.

*Who:* Interested Church Members  
Youth and Youth Leaders  
Council/Committee Members  
Church Officers, Delegates, and  
Christian Educators

*When:* Saturday, March 7, 2015  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm (Registration  
begins at 9:00 am.)

*Where:* St. John Evangelical UCC,  
307 West Clay Street, Collinsville.

*Keynote speakers:*

Rev. Starsky Wilson, President &  
CEO, Deaconess Foundation  
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, Conference  
Minister, Southwest Conference UCC  
Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell, Mayfield  
Congregational UCC, Sycamore, IL

Registration: By February 12, \$30 per  
person. February 13 – March 1, \$35  
per person. Registration price includes  
three keynote speakers, two  
workshops, and lunch.

Contact Judy, in the church office, for  
information about the workshops and  
registration, 667-6535.



**February 18**  
**the Beginning of Lent**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love. In many churches, ashes are placed on the forehead as a reminder of our mortality. The word "Lent" is from the Middle English verb meaning "to lengthen." In the Northern Hemisphere, the season corresponds with the lengthening of days during late winter and early spring. During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.



**QUARTERLY**  
Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing