



Happy New Year and the Blessing of Christ be with you all!

It is my hope and prayer that each of you have had a wonderful Christmas and that the new year is starting off great. Like everyone else, I feel like a new year offers a new beginning. A new chance, a new start and new possibilities. However, I have found that there is one thing that hinders and many times stops a “new way” from being a reality. That one thing is the past. Living in the past hinders our ability to allow the new to take root. This is especially true of the church. Many of us have been hurt or injured by former Pastors, individuals and situations. Many of us in the church hold to archaic traditions and rules that hurt, divide and separate. Sometimes to be healed from the past seems like a very unlikely improbability in the wake of everyday routines.

Yet as a church we are called to imitate Jesus in all that we do. Healing was a vital part of Jesus’ ministry. I especially like the healing of the deaf man in Mark 7
³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. ³⁴ And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ And Jesus^[a] charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Jesus also encouraged his disciples to heal, therefore, he encourages us to do the same. And as Friedens UCC we might also be “astonished beyond measure” at what would happen in this new year if we would let go of our past history, our past grudges, our past hurts and leave those trials and tribulations at the cross where Jesus can bring about new possibilities.

Healing begins with our words and how we choose to interact from this day forward. It occurs with a touch or a hug that says you’re forgiven and you’re special. It comes when we choose to quit drudging up and reliving all the past altercations and

unpleasant memories. Healing begins when we choose to make the future different and not fall into the same old traps time after time. Healing begins when we trust Jesus with every part of our new year.

Let us enjoy some new possibilities this year and take advantage of this opportunity. It would be an important step for all of us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Doug

An Invitation from the Pastor

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. I encourage you to bring yourself, a friend, or a neighbor and just enjoy each other's company. Remember, Sunday School is offered just down the hallway at 9 a.m. Hope to see you there!



The Council now has its own email address! Starting in 2015, if you need to communicate with the council, ask a question, or simply just have a comment, please feel free to send an email to the following address.

Council@friedensucc-troy.org This mailbox will be monitored by the Council president and any communications received will be brought to the Council's attention, if warranted.



Ushers

- Jan. 4** Bill Brown family
- Jan. 11** Larry Bliss
Lloyd Bliss
Kenny Grotefendt
Ed Whittington
- Jan. 18** Doug & Debbie Brendel
Dave & Pat Edgar
- Jan. 25** Julie Loehring
Gladys Huston
Sue Hanks
Jackie Estes
- Feb. 1** Rick & Sherry Smith
John and Carol Deloney

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

Liturgists

- Jan. 4** Marla Brown
- Jan. 11** Kellen King
- Jan. 18** Joe Smith
- Jan. 25** Brady Waggoner
- Feb. 1** Sean Smith



**Bus Drivers and
Helpers**

- Jan. 4** Roy McMillan
Faye McMillan
- Jan. 11** Jack VanHoose
TBD
- Jan. 18** Jim Galaske
Claudia Galaske
- Jan. 25** Doug Brendel
Debbie Brendel
- Feb. 1** Tom Fischer
Laura Lally

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

**The
Church
Office**



**Will Be
Closed:**

- Thursday, January 1st –
New Year's Day
- Monday, January 19th –
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Attendance for December

| | Sunday School | Worship |
|-------|---------------|---------|
| 12/7 | 30 | 124 |
| 12/14 | 35 | 120 |
| 12/21 | 40 | 149 |
| 12/24 | N/A | 187 |
| 12/28 | N/A | 51 |

Newsletter articles are due on **January 18th**

You may:

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



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



Items collected for Ministries Unlimited in December were:

- 2 boxes macaroni and cheese
- 30 cans soup
- 2 large cans sweet potatoes
- 1 box stove top stuffing mix
- 1 box milk chocolate
- 10 cans vegetables
- 6 small cans pumpkin
- 2 boxes Jell-o pudding
- 1 box Jell-o gelatin
- 3 cans evaporated milk
- 2 boxes onion soup mix
- 1 package vegetable mix
- 24 cans soda
- 1 bag powdered sugar
- 2 boxes potatoes
- 2 packages pasta sides

~Christmas drive ~

- Wrapping paper
- Name stickers
- Empty coffee cans
- 26 coloring books
- 13 new toys

Thank you for your donation! The items for **January** are: **toilet paper, shampoo, soup, cereal, and canned meat.**



January

- 4 Jeffery Seymore II
- 6 Aaron Jaconis
- 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 Weber
- 31 David Hoppes

The next Women's Guild meeting
will be at 1 p.m. on Wednesday,
January 21.

Reiki Classes to be Offered



Coming in March – **Reiki** classes will be offered to whoever might be interested. **Reiki** is a Japanese word representing Universal Life Energy, the energy which is present in all things. It is composed of two words, **Rei**, (ray) representing universal life and **Ki**, (key) representing energy. When combined, the word Reiki represents **Breath of Spirit**.

Reiki, when activated and applied for purposes of healing, addresses the alignment of body, mind, emotion and soul. It accelerates the body's ability to heal physical ailments and opens the mind and spirit to the causes of disease and pain, the necessity for taking responsibility for one's life and the joys of balanced wellness. The Usui System of Natural Healing is a discipline that uses Reiki in these ways.

There will be an orientation in February to address questions and to learn more about this discipline. Please watch the February newsletter for dates and times. If you think you may be interested please contact Virginia Bailey.

School Sunday Series:

Week One: Gum

Solomon was the wisest man on Earth, and after trying to find pleasure in earthly things, he found that every one of them was meaningless. Only Jesus can give us something that lasts, eternal life and joy!

Week Two: Sour Candy

When we follow our own plans and not God's, the plans that we thought would turn out sweet usually turn sour. Following God often means letting go of our own plans and desires. When we do follow God, we find that he will put us on a much sweeter path.

Week Three: Mints

Sometimes when we sin, we try to cover it up. We can never hide our sins from God, but the good news is that Jesus wants to forgive our sins and give us a clean heart.

We all love Candy! Come learn and have fun with us as we travel through our Candy Themed Curriculum! This class is for 1st – 6th grade children. Sunday School begins at 9:00 SHARP!



SIS Sister in Spirit

Class begins January 11th at 9 a.m. in the computer room. (Last room on the left in the educational wing.)

We will begin a 6 week series on Healthy Eating & Abundant Living. This class is open to all.

Class Introduction:

Healthy eating and Abundant Living is a journey, a movement of women like you who are courageously rising above the strongholds of food, eating, and body image and choosing to walk upon the unbeaten path toward living a fulfilling life of health, love, joy, friendship, and service.

Below you will find the theme for each of the six weeks. We will have other fun things planned as well. We hope to see you on the 11th

Week 1 You are wonderfully made

Week 2 The HEAL Basics

Week 3 Healing Your Hunger

Week 4 Body Beautiful

Week 5 An Aisle of Grace

Week 6 Abundant Living

SIS Presents:

SOS - Sharing our Supper

The first supper went very well! We had a wonderful meal and 35 folks join us.

Our next meal will be on
January 28th

5:30 – 7:00

Friedens Fellowship Hall

YOUTH TRVIA NIGHT!

January 23rd

Call the church office to reserve your table 8 people on a team, \$10.00 per person If you need help finding a team let us know.

All funds go to and stay with the youth program.

Come support our youth!

If your business would like to donate a basket or prize to be auctioned off please contact Sean Smith, Jamie Todd, Aaron Jaconis, Stephanie Williams or Doug Brendel

WANTED:

Clay flower pots, new or like new.

If you would like to help with Sunday School supplies see Stephanie Williams.



Friedens Sunday School Staff and Kidz are eager for the New Year! We will begin our Winter Curriculum on January 11th It will be a fun & learning time for all!



QUARTERLY

Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing



Next Movie Matinee:
January 8 at 12:30 p.m.



Congregational Meeting & lunch

January 25th.



February 28

~Quilt Show~

The 13th Annual Quilt and Art Show is over. I am thanking everyone who helped in any way to make it so successful. Thank you to the ladies who sold over \$1,000 worth of raffle tickets before the Quilt Show. Special thanks go out to the good makers, kitchen helpers, and all the workers upstairs and downstairs. Also, thank you to our night watchman, Jim. We continue to have special people donating to our raffle. Thank you for your generous donations.

We had 164 entries for the quilt show. We could not have displayed all of these items without all the wonderful help on Friday. Thank you to Bob and Sue for the music. Finally, thank you to Diana Bauer and her helpers, and their wonderful Art Show. We made a profit of \$2,450.05 this year.

Raffle winners:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Quilt | Peggy McKee |
| Afghan | Dorothy Smott |
| Caned Chair | Sandy Harbison |
| Painting | Gary Williams |
| Christmas Table | Colleen Gass |
| Runner | |
| Spa Basket | Gladys Skeens |
| Spa Basket | Erin Goebel |

Winners in the Quilt Show category:

Best of Show

Faye McMillin, *Hunters Star*

Machine Quilted

1st Judy Vogt, *Hummels*

2nd Sally Dempsey, *Celtic Twist*

Hand Quilted

1st Faye McMillin, *Hunters Star*

2nd Evelyn Saunders, *Pine Burr or Feathered Star*

Heirloom

1st Cherie Kohler, *YoYo*

2nd Linda Ingersoll, *Appliqué Sweet Pea*

Baby

1st Judy Vogt, *Happiness is a Warm Puppy*

2nd Faye McMillin, *Noah's Ark*

Wall Hanging

1st Sandy Claus, *Farmland Escape*

2nd Linda Ingersoll, *Forest Friends*

Afghan

1st Mary Ann Gaultney, *Baby Blue Afghan*

2nd Gloria Mannz, *Blue Afghan*

Table Runners

1st Sue Voss, *In the Meadow*

2nd Diana Minnick, *Cardinals*

Christmas

1st Judy Vogt, *Christmas Cheer*

2nd Mary Ellen Bird, *Modern Christmas Combination*

Miscellaneous

1st Diana Minnick, *Birds at Feeder*

2nd Sandy Claus, *Red Rooster*

Next year's Quilt and Art Show will be on November 14.