

Greetings and peace.

I was thinking about Valentine's Day and its association with the church. I came across this article by David Kithcart and had to share...Hope you enjoy.

Flowers, candy, red hearts and romance. That's what Valentine's Day is all about, right? Well, maybe not. The origin of this holiday for the expression of love really isn't romantic at all -- at least not in the traditional sense. Father Frank O'Gara of Whitefriars Street Church in Dublin, Ireland, tells the real story of the man behind the holiday -- St. Valentine.

"He was a Roman Priest at a time when there was an emperor called Claudius who persecuted the church at that particular time," Father O'Gara explains. "He also had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to them or their wives or families if they died." "I think we must bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived," says Father O'Gara. "Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. And yet some of them seemed to be attracted to Christian faith. But obviously the church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for their life and that it was to be encouraged. And so it immediately presented the problem to the Christian church of what to do about this." "The idea of encouraging them to marry within the Christian church was what Valentine was about. And he secretly married them because of the edict." Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against command of Emperor Claudius the second. There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison.

"One of the men who was to judge him in line with the Roman law at the time was a man called Asterius, whose daughter was blind. He was supposed to have prayed

with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became Christian as a result."

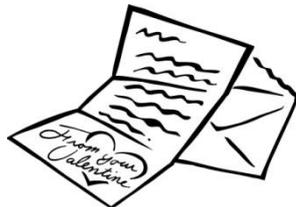
In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to a three part execution of a beating, stoning, and finally decapitation all because of his stand for Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine." "What Valentine means to me as a priest," explains Father O'Gara, "is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that -- even to the point of death." Valentine's martyrdom has not gone unnoticed by the general public. In fact, Whitefriars Street Church is one of three churches that claim to house the remains of Valentine. Today, many people make the pilgrimage to the church to honor the courage and memory of this Christian saint.

"Valentine has come to be known as the patron saint of lovers. Before you enter into a Christian marriage you want some sense of God in your life -- some great need of God in your life. And we know, particularly in the modern world, many people are meeting God through his Son, Jesus Christ."

"If Valentine were here today, he would say to married couples that there comes a time where you're going to have to suffer. It's not going to be easy to maintain your commitment and your vows in marriage. Don't be surprised if the 'gushing' love that you have for someone changes to something less "gushing" but maybe much more mature. And the question is, is that young person ready for that?" "So on the day of the marriage they have to take that into context," Father O'Gara says. "Love -- human love and sexuality is wonderful, and blessed by God -- but also the shadow of the cross. That's what Valentine means to me."

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Doug



## FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Attendance for January:

	Sunday School	Worship
1/1	no classes	54
1/8		94
1/15	33	98
1/22		131

### Funeral:

Irene Hall, born 3/16/25, died 1/11/17, funeral 1/21/17

Cleo Aebel Jr, , born 6/2/43, died 1/14/17, funeral January 1/20/17

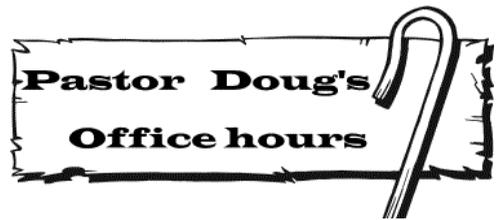
Newsletter articles are due on **February 19<sup>th</sup>**

You may:

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

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

- fax the article: 667-6006



Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. – 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)



Thank you to all  
who came and  
enjoyed Trivia  
Night!

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS



## Ushers

- Feb. 5** Gloria Mannz  
Deb Spears  
Gladys Huston  
Jackie Estes
- Feb. 12** Pat Ruger  
Matt Zipprich  
John Deloney  
Bill Brown
- Feb. 19** Jenny Ruger  
Steffie Zipprich  
Sandy Nissen  
Sherry Smith
- Feb. 26** Rick Smith  
Tom Fischer  
Ron Klaustermeier  
Ron Harbison
- March 5** Doug & Debbie Brendel  
Dennis & Cindy Westfall

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

## Liturgists

- Feb. 5** Karen Kronk  
**Feb. 12** TBD  
**Feb. 19** TBD  
**Feb. 26** TBD  
**March 5** TBD

## Bus Drivers

- Feb. 5** Mike & Debbie Byrd  
**Feb. 12** Dennis & Cindy Westfall  
**Feb. 19** Doug & Deb Brendel  
**Feb. 26** Jim & Claudia Galaske  
**March 5** Tom Fischer, Laura Lally



Friedens no longer accepts any items  
for recycling, this includes ink  
cartridges. Thank you for your past  
support.

Movie Matinee  
Thursday, February 2, 12:30 p.m.  
"The Light between Oceans"





**Operating Fund Activity**

**December**

Income \$21,009.15  
 Expenses \$25,107.26  
 Gain/(Loss) (\$9,528.00)

**Year to Date**

Income \$225,473.70  
 Expenses \$235,094.04  
 Gain/(Loss) (\$9,528.00)

The Financial Report reflects a deficit of \$9,528 for 2016. After the books had been closed for 2016, additional donations were received which resulted in a surplus of \$10,472.00. This surplus has been placed in usable investments, thus our operating fund for 2017 begins at zero.

Stewardship is not first about giving, but about seeing all that we have been given and rejoicing in a way that cannot help but shape how we act.



*Presidents' Day*

February 20<sup>th</sup>  
 (Church office closed)



*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
- 14 August Gianaris
- 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



Happy Valentine's Day from Friedens' Kids, Sunday School Staff and the CEB!

## Ministries Unlimited

Items collected in December were:

- 1 small bowl cereal
- 1 jar jelly
- 3 mini bowl pasta
- 2 boxes macaroni and cheese
- 1 can pumpkin
- 2 boxes Stove Top stuffing
- 5 ½ dozen eggs
- 2 cans pork and beans
- 2 cans soup
- 1 can milk
- 78 toothbrushes
- 2 packages mashed potatoes
- 1 Hamburger Helper
- 2 cans pasta
- 2 cans Manwich sauce
- 2 packages pasta and sauce
- 15 re-useable bags
- 41 stocking stuffers

Items collected in January were:

- 7 ½ dozen eggs
- 4 cans vegetables
- 1 box dry pasta
- 3 cans soup
- 2 cans tomato pasta
- 2 cans chili beans
- 1 can fruit
- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 box aluminum foil
- 1 box Glad cling wrap
- 2 hotel sized shampoo
- 2 hotel sized conditioner
- 2 hotel sized mouthwash

5 shirts

First Aid supplies:

- Hurt free wrap
- 2 non-stick pads
- gauze pads
- rolled bandage
- paper tape
- 1 non-adherent dressing

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



Thank you to everyone for the many Christmas gifts, cards and goodies that we received over the holiday season. We want everyone to know that we appreciate everything given to us and find it heartwarming to work somewhere where we are remembered by so many people during this special time of year.

Pastor Doug, Judy,  
Stephanie, & Tony



To My Friedens Family,

Thank you, so very much, for the many acts of kindness – your calls, visits, cards, prayers and concern are gratefully appreciated. I am now at home and doing well.

A special note of thanks goes to Pastor Doug who came to visit me at Anderson Hospital on that bitter cold Sunday and for prayers and phone calls – and to my quilting friends and others – thanks for your concern and friendship.

I will be moving to my new home on Feb. 1. Please feel free to call or visit me. My new address is  
Eden Village, Apt. 9304,  
200 S. Station Road,  
Glen Carbon, IL, 62034

My new phone number is 205-4756

Sincerely,  
Wilma Edwards

To My Dear Christian Friends,

I want to thank Pastor Doug for bringing me communion while I was not able to attend church.

Thank you to Jackie and JoAnn for your regular visits, and Gladys, the

only cousin I have left, who comes out every couple of days....unless I fail to answer my cell phone.

I really appreciate all of the cards I received this past year. I could hardly wait for Tona to bring in the mail at 5 pm. Thank you to Millie, Jean and others at church for asking Gladys about me every week. I want to thank all of you for your prayers.

I am getting stronger and hope to be in church before too long.

Blessings to you all,  
Thelma

Dear Friedens Church,

Your thoughtful gift of \$475 helps families and individuals who find themselves in circumstances they can't address without your help. It is our hope that you will take satisfaction in this kind gesture and the way it helps to ensure brighter futures for many.

Your gift makes a difference!

With deepest gratitude,  
Craig Steiner  
Director of Philanthropy  
Hoyleton Ministries



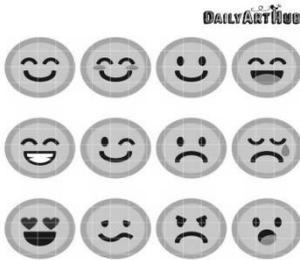


“How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.” - Psalm 139:14 NIRV



Don't forget your confirmand in your prayers. See Pastor Doug if you didn't receive a book mark.

Special Thanks to Eric Miller for designing the bookmarks! We are very grateful for his talents he shares with us here at Friedens.



Emojis are a fun way to quickly express our emotions with others. The Bible teaches us that our emotions are a gift from God, that He has a purpose for all of them, and that we can express them in a good way. Please join the 1st – 6th graders in exploring EMOJIS, starting February 5<sup>th</sup>!

## Groundhog Day

February 2



Six more weeks of winter?  
Please no!