

January 2021

*Friedens United Church of Christ
Circuit Rider*



FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Hello my fellow Friedenites,

Welcome to 2021 and the new journey that this year brings. I have a couple of items that I want to discuss as we start this year.

First, by the time that you are receiving this mailing, you should have received a letter asking for you to vote whether or not you would like to have Pastor Tim Harrison as our full-time pastor starting July 1, 2021. If you are a member and did not receive a ballot, I am truly sorry for any oversight. It is difficult to keep track of addresses, etc. as our members move around. I do pray that you will fully support the outcome of the ballot process and if Tim is installed, that you will give him, your church, and the leadership your full support. I will comment more on this in our next Circuit Rider after the ballots have been tallied.

Second, I have been looking over our membership numbers for the past 13 years. In 2007, we had almost 500 members on our books. Since that time, we have had 88 new members, either through transfer-in, confirmation, or new members joining our church. However, we have lost 295 members either through death, or transfer-out. Our current membership is around 290. Of those 290 members, many have not been active in quite some time. When I was putting addresses on the ballot envelopes this week, there were a large number of names that I had never heard of...and I have been with this church for 20+ years. (I will be discussing with council later this year on what to do with inactive members.)

The main point is this...we, as a church, cannot sustain this trend. Our current mode of operation is not working. Yes, we have an older congregation. We have lost at least 10 of our members in 2020. We have to change if we want this church to be here in another 10-20 years. I am not saying that I know what the change needs to be, but I do know that doing nothing will not solve the problem. Please, get involved with the church, invite some friends. Even if they go to another church, talk about things that we are doing. Tell them about our (hopefully) new pastor, our praise band, our Wednesday night interviews, our new video services, etc. We have to change. We cannot be the introverted church that we once were. And above all... if you have an idea on how to make the church grow, please, please let Pastor Tim or I know.

I hope that everyone has been able to watch some of our services on Facebook or YouTube. The video system is in place and I am trying my best to make sure that we get the videos out each week. Sometimes I mess up... I either inadvertently move the wrong camera, or post to the wrong page, etc. When it is safe to have in-person services, I would like to get some young adults to help out in the balcony in running things. It is becoming a 3-4

person job each week if we are in full mode.

In closing, I trust that everyone was able to have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. It IS a new year. It IS a time to begin again. It IS a time to look forward and embrace the joys and challenges that this year will bring.



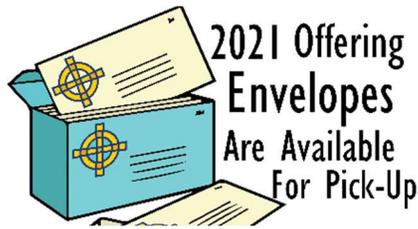
**January
18th**



Don't forget to like us on FACEBOOK



friedens@friedensucc-troy.org



There is a lot of work that goes into keeping your church running and a constant part of the Troy community. As 2021 begins, think of your talents and how they can help your church and your faith family. We thank our volunteers for all their hard work and dedication of keeping Friedens going. Please see Eric Bosaw or a chair member of any the boards listed below to see what you can do.

Please Welcome our 2021 Board Chairs



Eric Bosaw
President



Dennis Westfall
&
Claudia Galaske



Sandi
Zipprich



Jeff Estes
&
Sandy Harbison



Donna
Bingham

Due to the rising numbers, our in-person worship was only for a short time. With that being said, I hope you are able to enjoy the streamed service on Facebook and our newly streamed YouTube.

When we are being able to return to in-person Worship we will need to comply with the regulations below. As before we will have 2 services to help minimize the amount of people in the building at each time

1.) Please wear a mask while in the building and around other members.

2.) **PLEASE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH OTHERS.**

Feel free to wave and say hello from a distance. You may be comfortable with hugging someone, but they may not.

3.) *Sunday School will be week by week if numbers are within restrictions to meet for in-person.*

1st Service starts at 9:15 AM 2nd Service starts at 10:15 AM

4.) **IF YOU DO NOT FEEL WELL, PLEASE STAY HOME!**

Join us on Facebook for live videos and recordings of Sunday Services at:



<https://www.facebook.com/Friedens-United-Church-of-Christ-354214570387/>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPSd5dwIb9TRs6c6NUc9fQg>

The CHURCH Office will be closed for visitors until further notice.



Mail, voicemails & emails are checked daily. Please leave a message if you need anything at all!

With the current epidemic, we are asking everyone to limit the office to only members and staff who are working and need to use the office area &/or the equipment. We wish we could converse and catch up like before, but we need to have a plan to protect each of us. Thank you all for understanding .



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR TIM

“2021: Living in the Tension”

Happy New Year! I have a confession to make as I begin this year. I have to admit that I feel the joy and excitement of the New Year while simultaneously feeling as if there is a dark cloud overhead. The cloud reflects our present situation in the midst of a pandemic and political turmoil, economic struggles, and lack of community engagement. I feel like I am living in the tension of joy and sadness and loss.

Starting Sunday, January 17th, I have planned a series of 5 consecutive Sunday Sermons on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. This familiar part of the Sermon on the Mount seems to speak to this tension of the Kingdom of God.....not yet fully come but already here. I feel it seems to speak to where we are in this moment of mixed emotions and the push and pull of our daily lives. Recently I was inspired in reading a book by Stu Garrard entitled: “Words from the Hill”. It focused on the rich message Jesus shared with the people on a hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee. I hope you will take time these next several weeks to read and reflect on Matthew 5 and consider how God is at work in your lives and in the work of Friedens UCC at this moment in time! The Sermon Series schedule will be:

- **Sunday, January 17th “The Purpose of Our Emptiness”** **Matt. 5: 6**
(Blessed are those who hunger and thirst)
- **Sunday, January 24th “Less is More”** **Matt. 5: 3**
(Blessed are the poor in spirit)
- **Sunday, January 31st “The Promise of Comfort”** **Matt. 5: 4**
(Blessed are they that mourn)
- **Sunday, February 7th “Surrendering to Christ”** **Matt. 5: 7**
(Blessed are the merciful)
- **Sunday, February 14th “The Promise of Transformation”** **Matt. 5: 8**
(Blessed are the pure in heart)

May you know that “God is Good” on your very best and your very worst days of 2021!
Blessings, Pastor Tim



An Hour with Pastor Tim

Pastor Tim will be organizing “An Hour with Pastor Tim” every Wednesday. This will be posted on Friedens Facebook. We are looking for volunteers! If you are interested in having an interview with Pastor Tim or know someone who would be the perfect candidate, please contact the office.

Operating Fund Activity

November 2020 YTD

Income	\$18,739.26	\$212,803.07
Expense	\$12,584.39	\$158,781.46
	\$6,154.87	\$54,021.61



Thank you to everyone
for your continuation
of donations!

Operating Fund Activity

November 2019 YTD

Income	\$17,859.35	\$224,484.13
Expense	\$12,968.22	\$227,714.65
	\$4,891.13	-\$3,230.52



LEADERSHIP IN 2001



CHRISTMAS BELLS 2010

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

Just trying to let everyone know a few things that have taken place this past four months. Video system has been added to our sound system - funds were given for this in a memorial. Tuck Pointing for church tower had to be done - cost was 12,480.00 which came out of Capital Improvements which left us a balance of about \$5400. The bus has been sold, (which was approved at an outside Congregational Meeting this past Fall). We sold the bus for \$30,000. That money is in the Operating Fund under Usable Investments. We will need a new heating/AC system before next summer. The initial cost was between \$25,000 to \$30,000, that price could be more or less, no firm cost at this time. From the looks of things right now, we will have a positive number in our Checking Account to start the New Year. We still have a few bills to pay and payroll to do so we do not have end of year reports ready. We have been blessed in many ways since our closure, generous donations, a profit on the sausage dinner \$7,960.84 which includes the profit of \$1,827.50 made on the Rummage Sale. The sausage dinner is always a profitable venture. Bless the people who did the Rummage Sale, and worked the sausage dinner. We are not, of course, paying for a full time Pastor, so that has also added to our operating fund balance. We are paying for the Praise Band, but we are not paying for a music director at this time. Giving is up and down, but there have been some very generous donations. Like I said before I do not enter people's donations, I just make the deposits at the bank, but I can tell by the deposits. Whatever you give is a blessing to keep our church going through this most difficult time.

Blessings,

Sandy Harbison -

We have been using **FLOCKNOTE** for quite some time now and have had much success with informing members this way. We do not want you to miss out on important information we share with our congregation. Please sign up today.

Text the following: FriedensUCC To: 84576

Once you send that in, Flocknote will text you back a confirmation message AND another message with a link you'll need to click to complete the process. If you have any issues, questions or concerns, please see Eric.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Happy New Year! We all are hoping that the New Year brings us all back together. We miss seeing each and every one of you! As soon as the Covid-19 numbers are down to a safe level we will come back to Friedens. Until then I am planning some activities for you to do at home just like the Christmas craft I delivered. Some have posted their finished project on our church Facebook page. Those who did post them have their name in a drawing for a prize! I am giving you until the Baptism of Christ on Sunday, January 10th to post a photo to get your name in the drawing. A winner will be announced on Facebook! I will be bringing you another craft on **the second week of January**. Just like the Christmas one, if you post a photo on the church Facebook page of your finished craft, you will be placed in another drawing for a prize!



In **February** we will have another contest for you. **A LEGO BUILDING CONTEST!** We would like you to use a shoebox to build a scene you find in the Bible. We ask that no scene be larger than a shoebox, but it may be smaller. Then have Mom or Dad take a photo and send it to Stephanie at 618-406-2273 along with your name. The best will be determined by several different people from our church. Yes, you guessed it, a prize will be given to the winner! If you do not have Legos, please contact Stephanie and we will supply you Legos so you can participate. The deadline for entries is February 21st. We will have three age groups. Pre-K & Kindergarten - 1st - 3rd Grade - 4th - 8th Grade. This means we will have three winners for this contest.

Here are a few suggestions:

- | | |
|---|--|
| God creates the World (Genesis 1) | Adam & Eve's sin (Genesis 3:1-7) |
| Noah and the Flood (Genesis 7:11-20) | Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9) |
| Joseph's Colorful Coat (Genesis 37:1-4) | Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-19) |
| God Parts the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21-29) | Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) |
| A Fish swallows Jonah (Jonah 2:1-10) | Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6) |
| Jesus rides a Donkey (Mark 11:1-11) | God's Rainbow Promise (Genesis 8-9) |

These are just some ideas. The Bible scene is your choice! Please plan on taking part in this fun activity!

Happy New Year to you and all of your family! I pray for good health, peace, happiness and LOTS of LAUGHTER in the New Year to one and all.

Stephanie



For more information contact DuBois Center at dcinfo@DuBoisCenter.org or 618-787-2202.



Do you know a member that could use assistance with meals or groceries being delivered? We understand with the pandemic many of our members have been on 'lockdown' since the beginning in March. We want to help them, but we need you to do that. We are looking for a member/s to help head this mission and for names of members that would appreciate this service.



Have you seen our newly installed Blessing Box? Alyssa P from Troy with Girl Scout Troop 258 has used her Silver Award to add a blessing box at Friedens.

Sending a huge Thank you to Alyssa, her family & troop leader, Krysti, for all their hard work and for bringing this beautiful addition to this side of town.

We know it will be used for years to come and will be appreciated by many! Thank You



Our Church Mission -

December

January

Troy Transient Fund

February March - One Great Hour of Sharing

April - _____

May & June - Dubois

July - Love offering for the Wells

August - Hoyleton

September - Hitz

October - Emmaus House

November & December - Ministries Unlimited



DONATIONS NEEDED: We have a box set up outside the office to assist with this urgent need of **SOCKS & UNDERWEAR** for Equipping the Called. Please feel free to drop off donations M-F 9a-2p.



COMMUNION 1ST Sunday of each month!!

The 1st Sunday of each month is our Communion Sunday. We will have sealed juice & wafers for distribution for in-person worship. They are also available for pick up for our online worship. or you may use any items you feel comfortable with .



We have canes, walkers & wheelchairs. Do you know anyone who could benefit from one of these? Please contact the office.


REMEMBER OUR Shut-Ins


- Liberty Square (618) 667-8964**
 Adeline Burgess 204 Liberty Square, Apt. #22 Troy, IL 62294
- Hitz Home (618) 488-2355**
 Mary Ann Ambuehl 201 Bell St. Alhambra, IL 62001
- Eden Village (618) 288-5014**
 Geraldine Rock 200 South Station Road Apt #9225 Glen Carbon, Il 62034
- Alhambra Care Center (618) 488-3565**
 Rosemary Rose 417 E Main St. Alhambra, IL 62001
- Morningside of Troy**
 Francis Layfield Morningside of Troy #317 39 Dorothy Drive Troy, IL 62294
- Elmwood Nursing & Rehab**
 Thelma Huston 152 Wilma Dr Rm# 206 Maryville, IL 62062



Joann H

beautiful service. singing was lovely.
Merry Christmas to all

Carlene K

Beautiful service, thanks to all who
made it possible.

Georgia W

Thank you. Lovely service.
Merry Christmas.

Deborah B

Beautiful! Merry Christmas all of
Friedens Family!

Marilyn W

Beautiful, meaningful service. Thank
you to all that made this Christmas
Eve service possible. Merry Christmas!

Donna B

Beautiful service in both word and
song. Thank you, Eric, for ringing the
bell before the service, too. Merry
Christmas to everyone.

Cindy B

Beautiful service, thank you to
everyone for making this possible.
Swiss, Yvonne, John and Cindy.

Deb S

Beautiful. Merry Christmas to all
my family

Carol K

Beautiful service. We miss seeing
everyone. Merry Christmas

Diane S

Merry Christmas

Deborah B

Love this service!

Debbie K

Beautiful service!

*Thank you everyone who joined us for our
Christmas Eve Service and thank you to
everyone for your kind words!*

Thank You

The quick emails, calls, posts and small notes of thanks to all those who make each service possible would fill a book! Our members are very grateful to have Eric and his family helping behind the scenes. And we are all appreciative for Pastor Tim & Danielle starting our week off right by sharing the word of God. Words cannot express the gratitude felt by our members. We are all so very lucky. Thank you all! ~Monica



With your help we were able to finish and deliver 1,247 handwritten thank you cards to the Chamber of Commerce for our frontline workers!! ~ Thank you all!!

I want to thank everyone for everything during the holiday season! I cannot thank you all enough for all you have done for me. Between the cards, gifts, and prayers for my health I am beyond grateful for the Friedens family. Thank you for letting me feel the love you share with each other! Being here is definitely a blessing! ~ Monica

Thank you to my Friedens friends for the Christmas and Birthday cards & phone calls. "A word from home is so welcome and appreciated" ~Wilma Edwards

"When it snows you have two choices:

Shovel it or make snow angels" 😊 ~Unknown

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends,

A big **thank you** for your support and love to the men and women of Emmaus. It is a true testament of your generosity and dedication to making our world a better place during these challenging times. Let us face it, when things get tough, most people want to shovel the snow but donors like YOU make a difference... you make snow angels!

Many people with developmental disabilities find it hard to live independently. With your help, Emmaus is able to provide services so that each of our clients has control over their own lives making it possible for them to live like you and me. This holiday season, Emmaus would like to wish you the very best. Stay safe, healthy, and blessed! Thank you for making a difference! ~Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer

Don't forget to like us on FACEBOOK

Adopt a Family
THIS CHRISTMAS

With your help we were able to provide each child on our list with 7-9 gifts!! What a wonderful blessing! Thank you all for your help to make not 1, but 2 families Christmas!



THANK
YOU

Thank you to Jane Maedge & Stephanie Williams for covering the office for my appointments and recovery. A thank you everyone that sent prayers. I am very lucky to have your friendship! ~Monica

Thank you to Eric, Olivia & Matt for our beautiful Christmas Songs that was shared on our Facebook page. It was a joy to have such beautiful music to enjoy at home. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to Friedens. It does not go unnoticed, you are appreciated!



Thank you to the carolers and Santa . We enjoyed the singing and very much appreciates to be thought of and included in this. Thank you to everyone ~ Swiss & Yvonne Kamm



SHOP -LOCAL-



Lyle and Brenda W. have Metro East Yard Dice for yard games like Yardzee/Farkle and Yowzer Yard Tower (big Jenga). We have a basic webpage at www.metroeastyarddice.com and also a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MetroEastYardDice/>.

We are also part of Maryville Farmer's Market. I'm not sure if many of the members know about the market but it's a great resource, especially during this time. They've been having the markets a little different because of everything going on but it's been working out well. Until everything is more "back to normal" the market will be a drive thru and it's being held at Maryville Village Hall building on Thursday evenings from 5-6. The easiest way to find out information about what vendors will be at the market during a given week and what products that will be available is to follow the market Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket/>.

They have then been posting an event each week that lists each vendor and what they have available. Orders are taken beforehand and paid for online. If you order something, you just drive up anytime between 5-6 pm on Thursday and pick up your order(s) from the vendor(s) without having to have contact with anyone or go into any stores for various meat or produce as well as other specialties. We've worked very hard the past couple of weeks to get a fairly smooth system going. ~ Lyle and Brenda W



STEPHANIE WILLIAMS

618-667-7001

~ YOUR LOCAL TRAVELING HAIRDRESSER ~
I COME TO YOU!
HAIRCARE FOR HOMEBOUND AND SHUT-INS



Welcome to The Giving Tree, a gift, home decor and clothing boutique located on the downtown square in beautiful, historic Highland, Illinois.

We've got you covered from head to toe with cozy comforts! Great gift ideas, as well!!

Open Tuesday-Friday 10-5:30; Saturday 9-2:00.

Curbside pickup available.

FREE delivery in Highland. 654-2008.

Merry Christmas and THANK YOU to all of our devoted customers who supported TGT so generously not only this Christmas season, but this entire challenging year! I am deeply touched by your sincere desire to support the store, knowing TGT had to be closed for two months due to COVID restrictions. You came out in full force since then, and I am so grateful for the business that each of you brought the store. I am honored to have your business and loyalty. Thank you and Merry Christmas to you and yours! From my home to yours...Hope to see you soon!

~Laurie Manwaring



Allstate
You're in good hands.



Jessica Harrison-Wilkins

Agency Owner

Exclusive Agent - Three locations to serve you!

- Troy, O'Fallon, Granite City

618-667-8494 jharrison3@allstate.com



Newsletter submissions are due on January 25 for the February CR.

You may e-mail them to:

friedens@friedensucc-troy.org

FRIEDENS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

207 East Center Street

Troy, Illinois 62294

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

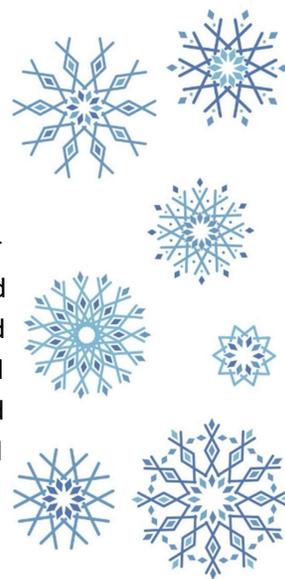


Meet Our Staff

Rev. B. Tim Harrison	Pastor (fill-in)
Monica Hunsdorf	Secretary
Stephanie Williams	CE Director
Michael McVickar	Choir Director
Jim Galaske	Sound Operator
Eric Bosaw	Sound Operator
Fred Keil	Screen Operator
Claudia Galaske	Screen Operator
Diana Bauer	Women's Guild President

CHURCH COUNCIL

Eric Bosaw	President
Joe Smith	Vice-President
Deb Brendel	Past- President
Laura Lally	Secretary
Sandy Harbison	Treasurer
Sandi Zipprich	Christian Education Board
Donna Bingham	Mission & Evangelism Board
Jeff Estes	Finance Board
Dennis Westfall	Property Board
Claudia Galaske	Property Board
Yvonne Kamm	At-Large
Kurt Sachtleben	At-Large



E-mail: friedens@friedensucc-troy.org

Council mail: Council@friedensucc-troy.org