

## Summer 2023 Newsletter

### *Pastor's Note: Our Generosity Journey*

May 24, 2023

I have thought a lot about this passage in Luke this past week. In the parable of the Shrewd Manager, Jesus is teaching his disciples that “if God can trust us to spend our money to meet the needs of others, then the money we ourselves need will also be provided.” German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his book, *Life Together*: “We prevent God from giving us the great spiritual gifts He has in store for us, because we do not give thanks for daily gifts.... How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from God the little things?”

I confess that I was filled with gratitude for the generosity of our recent donor. Yet, at the same time, I was also mindful of the weekly smaller gifts offered this last year to meet the needs of the Church mission.

I am hopeful, that each one of us will consider how generous God has been in our journey of faith and then respond to the needs of our faith community and the larger community of which we are apart.

Sometimes, when we focus on a goal or perhaps, the size of the gift given, we can miss the importance of the act of giving itself, no matter what the size of the gift! Giving is as a part of our act of worship of God as much as prayer or service, or any of the other ways we give back to God. *Continued on Page 2*

*“Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much”.*  
*(Luke 16:10a)*

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During the coming summer months, there may be times we may be taking holiday and vacations with family and friends and not able to be present at church. Don't forget that our services are both live and posted online so that you may join us no matter where you might be on that Sunday. Also know that our app allows you to keep up with your giving electronically despite not being able to physically hand in your gifts and offerings. I have seen evidence of your generosity in many forms whether in word, action, or giving! I pray that God continue to bless you in your faithfulness.

*“Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much”.*  
(Luke 16:10a)

In the months to come, I invite you to think about your “generosity journey,” and don't imagine all the things you will do for God **if** and **when** He supplies. Instead, do great things for God with whatever God has supplied and God will

continue to resource you. Let us give thanks daily for the little things and see what God has in store for Friedens UCC and our ministry to this community and beyond!

Have a Wonderful Summer!! See you in the park in June!

- Pastor Tim

## Summer Study- God, Scripture, and Sexuality

**Led by:** Pastor Tim and Hannah Schlemer

**When:** 4 Sundays in June at 4 pm – 5: 30 pm in Conference Room at Friedens UCC (\*\*Zoom option available for those unable to physically attend).

**Resource:** Book by Matthew Vines (provided)

“God and the Gay Christian”

**Focus:** To offer safe space for honest conversation on the Bible and Issues of Sexuality and Marriage



## Upcoming Events

### June

**Sunday worship services**

**@10:00am will be held in the Tri-Township Park for month of June!**

- 6.11- Sheltered Reality Drum Concert following church service
- 6.18- Pet Blessing during Sunday Worship Service

### July



- 7.9- Children's Church 10am
- 7.16- Pool Party at Highland Community Pool at 6-8pm
- 7.19- St. Louis Cardinals Game
- 7.20- VBS Night One St. Jacob Park @ 6-8pm
- 7.27- VBS Night Two Tri-Township Library @6-8pm

### August



- 8.3- VBS Night Three Tri-Township Park @6-8pm
- 8.13- Backpack Blessing during Sunday Worship Service
- 8.20- Fall Kickoff, Children's Sunday School resumes



# CHURCH UPDATES

## May Usher/Greeters

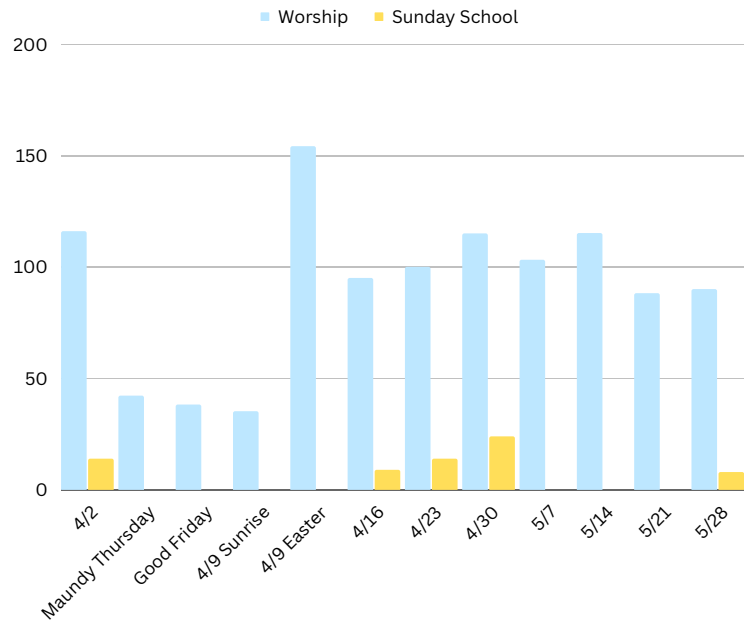
June 4 - Fred Keil & Doug Brendel  
 June 11 - Lloyd Bliss & Larry Bliss  
 June 18 - Rick Smith & Ron Klaustermeier  
 June 25 - Linda Persell & Donna Bingham

Visit our site to add your Prayer Request



APRIL Operating Fund	
Income	\$ 27,677.95
Expense	\$ 21,884.70
	\$ 5,793.25
YTD Operating Fund	
Income	\$ 83,546.37
Expense	\$ 127,830.69
	\$ (7,534.32)

## Worship Attendance



## Worship

### RECENT CELEBRATIONS:

#### Graduate Sunday (5/7)-

5 graduating students were blessed

#### Confirmation Sunday (5/21)-

Kacey Ruger was confirmed!

#### Baptisms- Gavin Meyer, Emma

Pittman, and Raegan Bosaw were

recently baptized. We have more

baptisms set for this summer!



**FRIEDENS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TROY, ILLINOIS

**WORSHIP  
IN  
THE PARK**

JOIN US AT THE GAZEBO  
Tri-Township Park, Troy, IL

Summer Sunday  
Worship 2023

Worship begins at 10:00am  
at the Gazebo in the  
Tri-Township Park.

Dates:  
JUNE 4th, JUNE 11th  
JUNE 18th, JUNE 25th

\*\*During inclement weather the  
service will be moved to Church

Friedens UCC - Troy, IL  
207 E. Center St. Troy, IL, 62294  
618-667-6535

Normal 10am worship in the Sanctuary will resume in July!

6/18 .  
Pet  
Blessing

7/9  
Children's  
Church

8/13 .  
Backpack  
Blessing

8/20  
Rally  
Sunday



# TEAM UPDATES

## Faith Formation

June

Sunday morning **worship in the park!** Fun for the whole family (including pets!)  
 June 18- **Pet Blessing**  
 We will have the **Kidzone** area at the park!



July

July 9- **Children's Church** will be a completely kid friendly and kid led worship service. All are invited!  
**Vacation Bible School Events** will start in July. See flyer below for more information!  
 July 16- Church pool party at Highland Community Pool



August

August 6- Pajama Church Service  
 August 13- Backpack Blessing  
 August 20- Rally Day and Sunday School

Adults & Children!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**HEART** **MIND** **SOUL**

Join Friedens UCC and St. Jacob UCC this summer for our intergenerational Vacation Bible School. There will be three events centered around The Greatest Commandment and other Bible stories with activities for all!

Adults	Everyone	Kids
<b>St. Jacob Park</b> July 20 Heart Healthy Activities- kid's yoga, cornhole, adult kickball Heart Healthy Mission- packing lunches for the summer lunch program	<b>Thursday Nights @6-8</b> <b>Tri-Township Library</b> July 27 Mind Enriching Activities- kid's puppet show and library tour, adult book club presentation	<b>August 3</b> <b>Park</b> Soul Feeding Activities- Cultural music and dance performance Soul Feeding Mission- Decorating pillowcases to be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" -Matthew 22:37-39 NIV

Activities listed are tentative. Be on the lookout for more information soon!



youngish adults



Old Herald Brewery- June 9, 2023

## Mission & Outreach

The Missions team is very thankful for all of the support for the Lift fund. We hope you enjoyed the race of naming the elevator. Upton won and we collected **\$161.50** more for the lift! Thanks to all who voted!

Keep an eye out for the information to come concerning our next SOS Soup Kitchen event.



# TEAM UPDATES

## Membership and Fellowship

**April Speaker Series, Beneficial Insects-** It was a success with lots of important information given by Master Gardener Bob Smejkal and wife Judy! There were approximately 30 people in attendance. Thanks Ron for setting it up!



**150 Committee-** Chair, Amy Schroeter met with Team representatives to discuss team plans for the 2024 Anniversary Year Celebrations. There are lots of good things being planned! Please contact Amy with any thoughts or ideas you might have to help us celebrate! Teams, organizations, and individuals' ideas are all welcome!!



**Spring Sing-Along-** May 2nd Carolyn and Audrey hosted a Spring Sing-A-Long for the independent residents at Eden Village. It was enjoyed by all, especially the tribute to America's favorite pastime with Take Me Out To the Ball Game... baseball hats and all! Olive wood crosses and prayer clothes were distributed.



**May Speaker Series, 60's Chicks -** It was in the Fellowship Hall with approximately 40 people in attendance. It was a fun night of oldies but goodies songs and entertainment. An old fashioned Soda Shop was the theme for dessert featuring make your own sundaes and ice cream soda's!

*The Membership and Fellowship team would like to thank all those who supported the Speaker Series.*

*I would like to personally thank all the members of the team for all their hard work and dedication in hosting these events. We are working on a few more events for this fall and winter and look forward to seeing you all there!*

## Church Growth and Evangelism

All,  
On behalf of Friedens UCC, The Church Growth and Evangelism board, and myself, we would like to thank you for attending this year's Tea Party. We hope that you enjoyed the time that you spent with us, the food, and the tea. We are already planning next year's event. We hope to see you all there. Thanks, Olivia Bosaw



**Tea Party**  
 Saturday, May 13th  
 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
 Bring your favorite tea cup!  
 Friedens UCC  
 207 E. Center St. Troy, IL  
 Please RSVP by May 11th  
 618-667-6535  
 Free Will Donation

**CAR SHOW**  
 NASTY OR NICE  
 RUSTY OR RAD!  
 EVENT POSTPONED  
 Food and Drinks will be available on site.  
 Cars arrive at 10:00 AM

# THANK YOU!



On May 14 we acknowledged our teachers and our Faith Formation Director, Kelsie, in celebration of Teachers week! Thank you to those who have a calling to mold our children to be the best servant to our Lord. Your devotion and support to the children is the beginning to their path to a faith filled life in this world.



We also thank Monica, our Administrative Assistant, for her 7 years of dedication. Her support and organization of Friedens is undeniable. We are incredibly thankful for her commitment to this church and our future!



Thank you for the cards, well wishes, and prayers for both my graduation and my mom. That was so kind and thoughtful of everyone to think about us. It is something I will never forget. We feel very lucky to be a part of the Friedens family and to be included in the prayers. We are slowly making improvements, but feel the prayers every step of the way.

♥ Sarah, Lynn, & family



Dear Friedens UCC,

On behalf of Got Your Six Support Dogs, I would like to thank you for your recent donation. Your generosity will bring comfort, solace, and support to veterans and first-responders who are struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder. The companionship and aide that our trained dogs can offer cannot be overestimated. In some cases, a service dog will mean the difference between life and death. In others, our dogs will build an important pathway that PTSD victims can travel to become reconnected to the life they once knew before their trauma.

We hope you will continue your support of our effort for years to come. PTSD is not a temporary phenomenon. As long as our veterans and first-responders place themselves in harm's way to protect us, there will be the likelihood of PTSD occurrences. Service dogs bring a calming and loyal presence in the lives of those who struggle with PTSD, and it is your help that makes this possible.

With deep appreciation,  
Nicole Lamahan, Founder and Executive Director

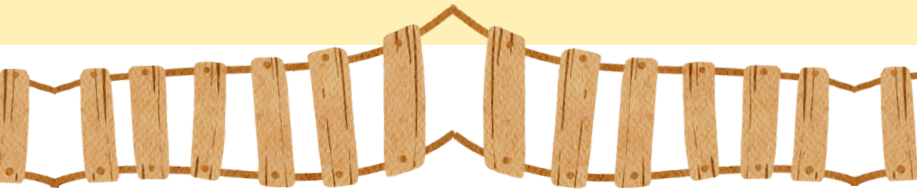
Thank you for your support!

# LET'S CELEBRATE!

## Confirmation Retreat

Calling All Confirmands- Present and Future!  
Save the date- September 16

The 2023 Confirmation Retreat - Walk in Faith is scheduled for September 16, 2023, at Camp Wartburg at 5705 Lrc Rd in Waterloo, Illinois, from 9 am - 4 pm. There will be Low Ropes and High Ropes Course with Team Building and lunch.  
**Contact Monica or Pastor to Join**



## Summer Birthdays!

### June

- 6.1 Corey Grotefendt
- 6.2 Carli Crews  
Kim Talbert
- 6.6 Sara Mollet
- 6.8 Kaden Barker  
Kara Langford
- 6.10 Courtney Talbert
- 6.11 Larry Bliss  
Lloyd Bliss  
Braden Porter
- 6.14 Kat Spears
- 6.15 Randall Grady
- 6.19 Kacey Ruger
- 6.21 Tom Fischer
- 6.26 Cindi Hoppes
- 6.30 Marilyn Wesselmann

### July

- 7.2 Kelly Dougherty
- 7.3 Kathy Bathon
- 7.4 Kurt Sachtleben
- 7.5 Lacey Cantu
- 7.8 Wendy Porter
- 7.12 Donna Bingham  
Cami Talbert
- 7.16 Wanda Keil
- 7.17 Cindy Smith
- 7.18 Brandon Spears  
Sherri Gregson
- 7.21 Kayla Molohan
- 7.22 Danielle Harrison
- 7.24 Karly Barker  
Stephanie Williams
- 7.26 Abbie Jarvis
- 7.28 Brady Waggoner

### August

- 8.2 Logan Willis
- 8.3 Stan Huston
- 8.5 Jenny Ruger
- 8.6 Abigail Schroeter  
Craig Spears  
Beverly Turner
- 8.7 Audrey Deeren  
Lorna Schaubert
- 8.8 Gabriel Gregson
- 8.9 Jean Dankenbring
- 8.11 Emily Patton  
Austin Berkemeier
- 8.13 Laurie Meyer  
Devin Wilkins  
Benjamin Zipprich
- 8.14 Olivia Bosaw  
Doug Brendel  
Katie Carver  
Wendy Smith
- 8.15 Madilynn Williams
- 8.16 Doug Alan Brendel
- 8.17 Allan Weder  
Emily Zipprich
- 8.18 Jackie Estes  
Mitchell Berkemeier
- 8.19 Gwen Bosaw
- 8.21 Richard Smith
- 8.22 Jim Bailey  
Kayden Crews
- 8.23 Jared Willis
- 8.25 Sherry Smith  
Phillip Smith
- 8.26 Jessica Wilkins  
Jennifer Leitschuh
- 8.28 Austin Hickam
- 8.29 Adeline Burgess  
John Lally



Friedens United Church of Christ  
207 E. Center St.  
Troy, IL 62294



**FRIEDENS**  
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## Church Staff

**Rev. Tim Harrison**- *Pastor*  
**Monica Hunsdorf**- *Administrative Assistant*  
**Peter Coppens**- *Cemetery Sexton*  
**Kelsie Parrish**- *Faith Formation Director*  
**Evan Bosaw**- *Worship Coordinator*  
**Eric Bosaw**- *Council Vice President,*  
*Sound/Video Operator*  
**Jim Galaske**- *Sound Operator*  
**Joe Smith**- *Video Operator*  
**Kat Spears**- *Council Secretary,*  
*Streaming Operator*  
**Fred Keil**- *Council Treasurer,*  
*Screen Operator*  
**Claudia Galaske**- *Screen Operator*

## Church Council

*Council President* -**Joe Smith**  
*Worship* -**Danielle Harrison**  
*Mission & Outreach* -**Marla Brown, Deb Brendel**  
*Faith Formation* -**Kelsie Parrish, Jenny Ruger**  
*Building & Grounds* -**Jim Glaske**  
*Security* -**Rick Smith**  
*Janitorial* -**Doug Brendel**  
*Membership Care & Fellowship* -**Sherry Smith**  
*Church Growth & Evangelism* -**Eric Bosaw**  
*Stewardship & Finance* -**Jeff Estes**  
*Technology* -**Claudia Glaske**  
*Food* -**Donna Bingham**  
*Staff Parish Relations* -**Sean Smith**  
*Women's Guild President* -**Linda Persell**