



Friedens United Church of Christ January 2021 Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk



As the joy of Christmas comes to an end, we enter into the Epiphany season. It is a time for the Church to examine the ways that Jesus Christ makes himself known to us. The Nativity Star is the symbol for this season, for Christ comes as a light for the world.

As Epiphany begins, we see in our minds the entrance of the Three Wise Men (Magi). They travelled a long distance, led by the light of the Star, to see the infant Jesus. Kneeling by Jesus these Magi offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Items to glorify the newborn King and the myrrh symbolizing his future death.

I believe the Wise Men were excited to find the infant Jesus. These three men (Gentiles) represent many of us in the scriptures. We are the outsiders called to celebrate this wondrous gift of God to the world. Jesus Christ is the Savior of the entire world, Jews and Gentiles.

As they placed the gifts before Jesus, they sensed that wonderful things were going to happen because of his coming into the world. Jesus would bring a newness to the world. Because of Jesus Christ, the whole world was going to be drawn closer to the love of God. Packing up to go home, the Wise Men carried all kinds of expectations with them. Time and life were never going to be the same.

I am glad that 2020 is finished! There is so much to look forward to in 2021. Like the Magi, I wonder what could be in store for God's people in the years ahead. May we use our gifts of gold to powerfully cure the illnesses that affect our people, change the fragile climate of our world, bring about better race relations, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, and create a more Christ-centered world. Let us smell the burning frankincense of worship in churches that will eventually regather and in homes dedicated to the way of the Christ. May each of us smell the myrrh that accompanies the burial of those who have served the Lord faithfully.

There is so much that can happen in the year ahead. May we use our precious gifts to honor the Lord Jesus Christ. Watch carefully as Christ manifests himself to us in countless ways.

Christ the Savior is born. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script.

The Rev. Dr. Tyson L. Frey



BIBLE STUDY - Rev. Frey

Join us Sunday mornings at 9 am as we study the Gospel of Matthew via Zoom. We are enjoying lively discussions. All are invited to join us at any time. The following is the information you need to join in:

Meeting ID: 829 1645 7284

Passcode: 758228

Join Zoom Meeting Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82916457284?pwd=QVA ramp FNFZtc25yaV aSS9aS3h1QT09>

Join by Phone

Dial: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592

Press *6 to unmute/mute yourself



ANNUAL MEETING



The Friedens Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17 immediately following the 10:15 am Zoom worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to reflect upon the past year and to plan financially for the year ahead.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer List: Please keep the following in your prayers:

Naomi Kegerise, Donald Blew, William Angstadt, Betty Crane, Marie Kisling (mother of Tom Kisling), Sara McMaster, Nikki Schlegel, Jack Hubert, Frank Arters, Linda Wegman (*friend of Patty Hartranft*), Jay & Anna Mae Estep, Barb Sullivan, Frances Reichert, Karen Hoffman, Steve Levan, Haligh Ott (*niece of Sara McMaster*), David Derr (*Mable Yoder's son and Lynn Boyer's father*), Margie Thurlow (*Cathy Frey's cousin*), Margie Riegel (*Shirley Riegel-Ferreri's mother*), Rev. Alan Miller, Hank Hyde (*nephew of Pastor and Mrs. Frey*), Lexi Thomas (*cousin of Pastor and Mrs. Frey*).



Military Prayer List: Please keep those serving to protect our country in your prayers, especially Emily Hain (*granddaughter of Dan & Julie Christ*), Michael Boyer (*son of Lynn Boyer*), Haley Fisher (*niece of Tonya Fisher*), Bradley McAfee (*Tonya Fisher's cousin's son*), and Sam McMaster (*nephew of Sara McMaster*).

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - November 10, 2020

The meeting was held by video conference over the internet

IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Angstadt, Kay Bertolet, Joe Bilski, Craig Conrad, Betty Hoffman, Janice Hoffmaster, Rev. Frey, Ron Klein, Leroy Miller, John Rizzo, Dave Wolfe, Kurt Weiser

PASTOR'S REPORT Rev. Frey submitted a detailed report of pastoral activities for October. The month was filled with Sunday worship preparation, online Zoom worship preparation, assorted meetings with staff and church leaders. Friedens has continued to maintain a strong number of members/guests worshipping online with Zoom and YouTube. Bible Study on Sunday mornings at 9 am began September 20. There are 8-10 people engaging in this

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CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - Continued

Bible Study together on Zoom. He is looking into some options for our Sunday School children's program. Confirmation class has begun for six youth: two girls and four boys.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Net income is down for this year. The PPP loan amount of \$30,300 was listed as being \$60,600 due to the time lag between our accounting software and the check traveling to and being posted by the bank. New simplified PPP loan forgiveness forms now can be completed and submitted and uploaded to the bank. A motion was carried to approve the report.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: To date no one has stepped forward to fill the position.

OTHER BUSINESS

To date only two individuals have stepped forward to fill upcoming consistory terms. The two consistory candidates, Brian Ott for elder and Kay Bertolet for deacon, will be announced by Dave Wolfe at the Zoom worship service on Sunday, November 15. The election will take place at the Zoom worship service on Sunday, December 1.

Youth Group Poinsettia Fundraiser orders are due by November 30.

Photographs are needed from the Christmas Eve services from years past for use in this year's Zoom Christmas Eve service.

Financial reporting for the newsletter will be changed to the new simplified format that was proposed by Ron Kline. The financial information will be submitted by the treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS

The Friedens 2021 annual budget needs to be established. It will most likely be a replication of the 2020 budget with minor increases and salary adjustments. David Wolfe, Craig Conrad, Sue Henne, Shirley Riegel-Ferreri and Andy Samuelsen will need to be contacted to see what their group's needs are expected to be for 2021. We will need to have a Zoom congregational meeting to approve the budget.

A motion was made and carried that Friedens pledge \$200 to the Covenant Association for the year 2021. The \$200 contribution is to be paid in the month of June.

A motion was made and carried that the \$300 the church received for our Oley Fair support be allocated to the Mission Fund.

A motion was made and carried that the church only pay for the one CDM computer software module that church financial secretary uses. Our annual subscription fee of \$284 will remain the same but our monthly user fee will be reduced from \$39 down to \$13.

A plan needs to be developed for when and how to return to sanctuary worship services. LeRoy Miller, Craig Conrad, Joe Bilski and Kurt Weiser are interested in being in a group to plan what is needed to return to indoor worship services.

The next consistory meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 8, at 7 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John Rizzo, Secretary

2021
— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

2021
— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

2021
— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

2021
— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

FINANCIAL UP-DATE - Ron Klein**REVIEW OF WEEKLY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

| WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS | WEEK 1 | WEEK 2 | WEEK 3 | WEEK 4 | WEEK 5 | AVERAGE |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| November 2020 | 85 | 62 | 82 | 86 | 78 | 79 |
| October 2020 | 79 | 71 | 80 | 74 | N/A | 77 |
| September 2020 | 73 | 67 | 56 | 66 | 95 | 71 |
| August 2020 | 70 | 53 | 80 | 67 | 69 | 68 |
| July 2020 | 68 | 63 | 78 | 121 | N/A | 93 |

REVIEW OF CURRENT INCOME/EXPENSE AS OF MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 2020

| PERIOD | INCOME | EXPENSE | STATUS |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Month Ending November 30, 2020 | \$11,671 | \$13,083 | Expense was \$1,412 greater |
| Year to Date | \$144,904 | \$168,939 | Expense was \$24,035 greater |

As you can see, even with a very watchful eye on current expenses, current expenses for the 11-month period ending November 30, 2020 were \$24,000 greater than the current expense income. During the month of November, numerous faithful members continued with their commitment to cover current expenses. Without their continued commitment, our church would be in a severe financial position. We need to thank all who continue to financially support our church and the work of God.

As of November 30, there were 14 participants in the Electronic Fund Transfer Program. This is a win-win program. You win by not having to remember to make your contribution as it is automatic. The church wins by automatically receiving your contribution. Remember, there is no enrollment fee and you can change your monthly contribution at any time. It is easy to enroll in this program. An enrollment form can be found on page 7. If you have any questions, please call Ron or Naomi Klein at 610-929-4898.

MISSION TEAM - Sue Henne, Co-President and Barb Covey, Secretary

Food Pantry Drive-Thru Drop-off Collections in the parking lot of Friedens UCC will continue as long as the church remains closed and may possibly continue once the church does re-open. Drive-Thru Drop-Off Collections will take place on Saturday, January 9 and Saturday, January 16, from 9 to 11 am. The theme for January is comfort foods. While this theme is wide open for interpretation, we suggest the following items: boxed mac and cheese, beverage items (hot cocoa mix, coffee and tea), baking mixes (biscuit, bread, brownie, cake, cookie and muffin mixes), canned soups, snackfood (chips, cookies, crackers, popcorn and pretzels). Our Drive-Thru Drop-Off Collections are COVID safe. We ask drivers to pull up to the drop-off point with their items either in the trunk or on the back seat of their vehicles. Volunteers wearing masks and gloves remove the items from the vehicles, ensuring that the driver stays in the vehicle and all parties are kept safe. We would like to thank everyone who has or will participate in these highly successful collections. They are essential community outreach events that help our neighbors in need.



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ELECTRONIC TRANSFER ENROLLMENT FORM

Church Envelope Number: _____

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS (ACH DEBITS)

FRIEDENS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FVA1802

I (we) hereby authorize Friedens United Church of Christ to initiate debit entries to my (our)
 Checking Account/ Saving Account (select one) indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called depository, and to credit the same to such account and to initiate, if necessary, debit entries/adjustments for any credit entries in error the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge the origination of ACH Transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provision of U.S. Law.

The amount of the debit entries to my assigned account shall be: \$ _____

Taken on a Weekly Monthly Basis designated as follows:
Weekly to be taken on Friday – Monthly to be taken on the 15th of the month

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Current Expenses | \$ _____ |
| Communion | \$ _____ |
| Building Fund | \$ _____ |
| OCWM | \$ _____ |
| Sunday School/Christian Education | \$ _____ |
| Other Fund Designation: | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |

Depository Name

Branch

City

State

Zip

Routing Number

Account Number

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Friedens UCC has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination and in such manner as to afford Friedens UCC and Depository a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name

Date

Signature

VIRTUAL WORSHIP - Julie Frey

Join us for worship throughout January! Each Sunday, we gather at 10:15 am on Zoom (via smart phone, computer, or digital device) and also stream live on YouTube. If you are unable to join us for services live, recordings are available on our YouTube channel —Friedens UCC Oley— and are posted on our website under the Worship tab. Each week, Denise emails the link for the upcoming service to those on our email list. Links can also be found on our website on the Home Page and under the Worship tab.

Sunday, January 3, 2021, 10:15 am EST

Holy Communion will be celebrated. Have wine/juice and bread/crackers ready.

To Participate on Zoom (make sure your Zoom app is up-to-date)

Webinar ID: 874 4463 1513

To join, type the link below into your computer browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87444631513?pwd=TXhzeTkrVVBDeMxzV3RhUi9PZXFZdz09>

Passcode: 010321

To Participate by Telephone:

This is a toll call. Depending on your phone plan, you may be charged long distance rates.

Dial: +1 (646) 558-8656 or +1 (301) 715-8592

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 874 4463 1513

If prompted, enter the passcode: 010321

To mute/unmute during the service, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIvV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQ/featured

Sunday, January 10, 2021, 10:15 am EST

To Participate on Zoom (make sure your Zoom app is up-to-date)

Webinar ID: 849 5928 4361

To join, type the link below into your computer browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84959284361?pwd=OTIUYk5WK3pEcGV0K2I6RTB5QjRtQT09>

Passcode: 011021

To Participate by Telephone:

This is a toll call. Depending on your phone plan, you may be charged long distance rates.

Dial: +1 (646) 558-8656 or +1 (301) 715-8592

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 849 5928 4361

If prompted, enter the passcode: 011021

To mute/unmute during the service, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIvV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQ/featured

Sunday, January 17, 2021, 10:15 am EST

To Participate on Zoom (make sure your Zoom app is up-to-date)

Webinar ID: 891 8294 4607

To join, type the link below into your computer browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89182944607?pwd=eVEvVmxcXINOGJIVEdoYjRSt25Xdz09>

Passcode: 011721

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VIRTUAL WORSHIP - Continued

To Participate by Telephone:

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Dial: +1 (646) 558-8656 or +1 (301) 715-8592

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 891 8294 4607

If prompted, enter the passcode: 011721

To mute/unmute during the service, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQfeatured

Sunday, January 24, 2021, 10:00 am EST

To Participate on Zoom (make sure your Zoom app is up-to-date)

Webinar ID: 850 8511 9040

To join, type the link below into your computer browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85085119040?pwd=bXY0ZlgxbXZFbzZJd09OZDNRtNRLZz09>

Passcode: 012421

To Participate by Telephone:

This is a toll call. Depending on your phone plan, you may be charged long distance rates.

Dial: +1 (646) 558-8656 or +1 (301) 715-8592

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 850 8511 9040

If prompted, enter the passcode: 012421

To mute/unmute during the service, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQfeatured

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 10:15 am EST

To Participate on Zoom (make sure your Zoom app is up-to-date)

Webinar ID: 835 3724 2392

To join, type the link below into your computer browser:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83537242392?pwd=dXkxT2loaHEXMDIYYk1qdC9Oei9pdz09>

Passcode: 013121

To Participate by Telephone:

This is a toll call. Depending on your phone plan, you may be charged long distance rates.

Dial: +1 (646) 558-8656 or +1 (301) 715-8592

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 835 3724 2392

If prompted, enter the passcode: 013121

To mute/unmute during the service, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQfeatured





Friedens United Church of Christ
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Oley, PA 19547

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THE LAST LAUGH

Friedens United Church of Christ
337 Main Street
Oley, PA 19547
610-987-3536

www.friedensuccoley.com

Regular Church Office Hours
Monday thru Thursday
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
office@friedensuccoley.org

Rev. Dr. Tyson L. Frey
pastor@friedensuccoley.org

Denise Buccigliola
Office Administrator
office@friedensuccoley.org

Sunday Virtual Worship
10:15 a.m.

