



Friedens United Church of Christ February 2021 Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk



At the very heart of who we are as Americans is the freedom to worship as we choose. Within our worship tradition as United Church of Christ people, we find religious values that bring us a sense of comfort and peace. These values are like an antidote to the political and cultural divisiveness we have experienced recently.

What are these religious values that we cherish? Richard Just, editor of the *Washington Post Magazine*, would suggest that they are: humility, forgiveness, mutual trust, and a sense of Sabbath¹. **Humility** teaches us that we might be wrong and our opponents right. **Forgiveness**, which Jesus lifted up for us, helps us let go of past cares and burdens. **Mutual trust** makes space for working at knotty civil and faith differences. A sense of the **Sabbath**, the fourth commandment, gives us a sense of the holy breaking into time and it allows us rest from the entanglements of religious and political life.

Let us cherish these religious values which are a part of our Reformed church heritage. We have the opportunity to build on these values as we move into the year 2021. They can become our own cherished values that we may live by and share with our children and grandchildren. The disturbing events of recent years can be wiped away or cleansed as we focus upon these four religious values.

May the light of Christ shine through you in this Epiphany season as you examine and infuse these values into your personal life.

Yours in the light of Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Tyson L. Frey
Pastor



¹"Century Marks," *The Christian Century*, December 16, 2020, 8.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP



An Ash Wednesday worship service will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 17 at 7 pm. Holy Communion will be included in the service so please have bread/crackers and wine/grape juice on hand. Links and Information to participate in this special service can be found on page 8.

FROM THE PRESIDENT - Craig Conrad



I am honored to once again be voted by the Consistory to serve as President for 2021. I am looking forward to this being a good and prosperous year for Friedens UCC. I feel we should be seeing some relief from this pandemic by mid-year, hopefully sooner. We are getting closer to being able to smell the hoagies and shoo fly pies being prepared, seeing the youth fill our halls on a Sunday morning and, most importantly, getting back to being able to worship together in the Sanctuary.

While we look forward to all of these things, we still need to be aware that we cannot move too quickly. We need to plan and prepare for when these limitations start to change shape. The Consistory is doing its best to develop a plan of action to follow as we move ahead.

Getting back together is just one of the challenges we will face in 2021. As you all know, our budget does not look promising for this year. We have applied for the second round of PPP Loans. We were made aware that we most likely will not see an increase in what we receive. If we are approved, it will be for the same amount we received last year. They are not allowing anyone to increase the amount from the first round. If we get the \$30,300 again this year, that still leaves us with a budget shortfall for 2021. Let's all pray that we can step up and work that out as a congregation. I have no doubt that we will.

We will continue to do our best to communicate any issues or updates to everyone during these challenging times. Peace be with you.

NEW MEMBERS - Rev. Frey



Geraldine Wagonseller was recently received into membership of Friedens UCC. Gerry took her membership vows before Elders Stan Degler and Ron Kline and Rev. Frey. Gerry was received into membership via a Letter of Transfer from St. Mark's U.C.C. in Reading. Gerry lives in Oley and belonged to Friedens Church many years ago and is happy to be back with our church.

Ruth May was received into membership of Friedens UCC by Rev. Frey via phone call by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ruth recently retired as a textile chemist and had been working in North Carolina. She belonged to our church in years past and is glad to be back with our congregation. She enjoys spending time with her family.

We welcome both of these women into the membership of Friedens UCC and look forward to their active participation in our church life.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer List: Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers:

Amy Renson (*daughter of Don and Mary Jane Blew*), Willard Hafer, Mabel Yoder, Naomi Kegerise, Donald Blew, William Angstadt, Tom Crane (*family members of Pastor and Mrs. Frey*), Nikki Schlegel, Frank Arters, Steve Levan, Haleigh Ott (*great-niece of Sara McMaster*), David Derr (*Mable Yoder's son and Lynn Boyer's father*), 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*), Haley Fisher (*niece of Tonya Fisher*), Bradley McAfee (*Tonya Fisher's cousin's son*), and Sam McMaster (*nephew of Sara McMaster*).

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - December 8, 2020

The meeting was held via Zoom.

IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Angstadt, Kay Bertolet, Joe Bilski, Craig Conrad, Betty Hoffman, Janice Hoffmaster, Rev. Tyson Frey, Ron Klein, LeRoy Miller, John Rizzo, Stan Degler, Dave Wolfe, Kurt Weiser and guest Cindy Conrad

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES: The minutes of the virtual Congregational Meeting, held live via Zoom on Sunday, December 6, were discussed. This meeting was held solely for the purpose of the election of consistory members. A motion was made and carried to approve Brian Ott for Elder and Kay Bertolet for Deacon. The voting data was reported as 46 yeas, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Frey reported that November was filled with Sunday worship preparation, meetings with staff and church leaders and the PA Southeast Conference Fall Meeting. Friedens has continued to maintain a strong number of members and guests worshipping via Zoom and YouTube. Bible Study on Sunday morning is continuing via Zoom and Confirmation Class is progressing via Zoom. Preparations are in process for the Christmas Eve service.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We are ending the year with a little bit of a positive cash buffer due to the \$30,300 PPP loan. The PPP loan forgiveness paper work will be completed, submitted and uploaded to the bank. This may not be needed as the government is now considering automatically forgiving all loans less than \$150,000. A motion was made and carried to approve the report as presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

The annual contribution to the Bethany Children's home was discussed. Ron Klein suggested that the Mission Team contribute about \$115 along with the congregation's contributions of \$885 so that the church can give \$1,000 to Bethany. Betty Hoffman will discuss this with Mission Team leaders, Sue Henne and Carol Miller.

The Friedens 2021 Annual Budget Proposal was discussed. It is very similar to 2020. The breakdown is as follows: 79% for salaries; 7% for utilities and heat; 6% for operating expenses; 5% for repairs; 3% for insurance. The proposal estimates a \$45,000 expected deficit at the end of 2021 although this number should begin to decrease once COVID-19 restrictions are eliminated. The budget proposal will be distributed to congregation members prior to the January Annual Congregational Meeting.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: An individual has stepped forward to inquire about filling the Financial Secretary position. Ron Klein will report on how many of the church envelopes are actually used as well as how many families are now enrolled in direct withdrawal contributions.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: The church is now winterized by adjusting the thermostats and covering the air conditioning units. So far, only one quote for snow removal has been received and that contractor is not fully insured. They are actively seeking other quotes.

OTHER BUSINESS

The 2021 Offering Envelope distribution went well. Five families still have not picked up their envelopes. They will be delivered by various consistory members.

Continued on Page 4

CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - Continued

Ron Klein suggested that we continue to have a consistory member attend the funerals of all church members.

A church member is sponsoring a \$50 Amazon gift card for the two church employees and the Treasurer.

The Christmas Eve video service is progressing. Notification of this special service will be done via email, Sunday announcements and a sign in front of the church. Filming was completed the week of December 1. Editing is being done so the service will flow smoothly in the proper order with a live introduction. At the completion of the worship service there will be a "live" Zoom fellowship.

The COVID-19 church restart group will meet after the holidays.

A Consistory condolence card was sent to Virginia Strunk upon the death of her sister Barbara Kittrell.

The next consistory meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, January 12, at 7 pm.

FINANCIAL UP-DATE - Cindy Conrad

Friedens UCC Bank Balances:

Tompkins Vist Checking Account	\$35,919.53
Tompkins Vist Money Market Account	84,759.98
Total as of 12/31/2020	\$120,679.51

Investments as of 12/31/2020 – Note: *The church is paid 4% annually from the memorial and endowment fund and the Ralph Groff Estate fund pays 4% annually to the building fund.*

Memorial/Endowment Fund	\$312,552.56
Building Fund Investment Account	21,896.08
Ralph Groff Investment Account	82,923.91
Total Investments as of 12/31/20	\$417,372.55

The following donations were received, and payments disbursed to the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference for the year 2020:

Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)	\$6,811.00
One Great Hour of Sharing	370.00
Strengthening the Church	670.00
Neighbors in Need	1,000.00
Bethany Children's Home	1,035.00
Christmas Fund	170.00

Other Balances for Special Funds as of 12/31/2020:

Building Fund	\$6,096.35
Memorial Fund	60.00
Christian Ed/Sunday School	250.75
Mission Team	3,049.79*

*Includes prepaid card payments, and mission trip balances

The Church applied for the second PPP Loan on January 19, 2021 to help to reimburse some of the costs of payroll

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

We would like to thank everyone who dropped off food donations at our two Drive-Thru Drop-Off events in January. So many comfort food items were collected that they filled the bed and inside of a pick-up truck! While a variety of items were collected, macaroni & cheese seemed to be the overwhelming favorite comfort food donated, as 275 boxes were given to the Oley Valley Food Pantry. Sending a special thank you to Carol Miller, Shirley Riegel-Ferreri, Betty Hoffman, and Eleanor Henne for their assistance at the collection events. See page 7 for pictures. People in our community should never be without food as it is one of life's necessities. Our goal and mission is to see that everyone has food, no matter what their circumstances are.



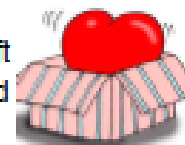
The Mission Team will continue to hold Drive-Thru Drop-Off food collection events during February. Our food theme for February is *SOUP*. This includes canned soups and stews, canned or boxed broths, and dry packaged soup mixes. Let's see how many soup items we can collect! Items can be dropped off in the church parking lot on Saturday, February 6 and Saturday, February 13 from 9 to 11 am. Safety protocols remain in effect for these events. We ask that drivers remain in their vehicles with their donations either on the back seat or in the trunk of the vehicle. Volunteers, wearing masks and gloves, will remove donated items from the vehicle. If drivers need to get out of their vehicle for any reason at the drop-off point, we ask that you please wear a mask. Thank you for your continued support and adherence to our safety protocols. These events have been very successful!

The first mailing of coupons to our military stationed in Guam will be mid to late February. You can drop off your cut or uncut coupons at any of the Drive-Thru Drop-Off events, or you can stop by Sue Henne's house at any time and leave your coupons on the front porch.



The Mission Team Used Ink Jet Cartridge Recycling Fundraiser is up and running. You have the option to bring your used ink jet cartridges to any Drive-Thru Drop-Off event. If you prefer, you can easily submit your used ink jet cartridges at no cost to you from home. Simply go to planetgreenrecycle.com and follow the three easy steps. Use your name, address, and email as the contact person for a free mailing label to be sent to you. MOST IMPORTANT: When asked for the "Organization Program ID Code" use 31499. This ensures that the Friedens Mission Team will receive a check for payment for your cartridges. Please remember that they only accept *ink jet cartridges*. This is an easy way to help the Mission Team help more people, help the environment, and dedutter your home or workplace at the same time. It's a win/win/win!

Looking for a Valentine Gift? The Mission Team still has four \$25 Red Robin Gift Cards for sale. Please contact the church office or Sue Henne if you are interested in purchasing any of these gift cards.



ENVIRONMENTAL TIP - Here are *two more ways to solve household problems without using harmful chemicals*

**Run equal parts water and vinegar through your coffeemaker. Halfway through the cycle, turn it off and let it sit for 1 hour. Then run through the rest of the cycle.*

** To unclog a drain, squirt some grease-fighting dish soap into the drain followed by at least 1 cup of boiling water, then 1 cup of baking soda, followed by 1 cup of white vinegar. When the mixture stops fizzing, wait 5 minutes longer, then flush drain with 2 cups of boiling water.*

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Evan Hoch
 4 Paige Rohrbach
 6 Deborah Hannum
 6 Mark Rittwage
 8 Mark Hoch
 8 Jaxon Schlegel
 12 Peter Littlefield
 14 Kurt Weiser
 16 Barry Hoffman
 16 Matthew Schaeffer
 17 Linda Parkhouse
 19 Hope Distasio
 19 Kathy Weidner



20 Russell Leach, Jr.
 21 Christopher Hannum
 21 Jeff Parkhouse
 21 Kathleen Rhoads
 21 Richard Witman
 22 Andrew Kline
 24 Linda Egolf
 24 Cameron Rittwage
 27 Lisa Kegerise
 27 Carl Levan
 29 Becca Heffner
 29 Mark Kelly
 29 Megan Schaeffer

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

6 Mark & Bernice Hoch
 8 Wayne & Kathy Weidner
 10 Christopher & Deborah Hannum
 16 Kurt & Patricia Weiser
 27 Justin & Lynn Boyer



NOTES OF THANKS

From Ashley Mikulsky, VP Development, Animal Rescue League of Berks County: *Wow! What a generous load of donations! We are so grateful for people like you, supporting what we do. We couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much @*

From Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development, Bethany Children's Home: *When a youth is placed at Bethany, they are scared, angry, without hope. Most will come with the clothes on their back and if they are lucky, they may have a small bag of personal belongings. They are seeking for someone to listen, provide a guiding hand, and care about them. Though it may be difficult for them at first, our youth begin to see that there are so many new opportunities available to them at Bethany. Every resident not only receives the most basic needs of food, shelter and clothing, but also opportunities to learn new life skills. They can attend school, participate in art, music and recreation programs, work/volunteer in the community, and build new friendships. Through these programs, they can regain control of their life and set a new path for their futures. Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 to purchase gifts for our youth. Thank you for thinking of our youth during this time of year. Your ongoing support will help them to continue to heal and take back their lives.*

From Bob & Lorraine Nicol, Coordinators Oley Valley Food Pantry: *Thank you so very much for your recent contribution in the amount of \$240. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the pantry in so many ways. Due to the pandemic, we continue to serve our clients as safely as possible. This past month we saw an increase of 50 families, bringing our total to 190 families. As we start a new year, may we all continue to pray for and keep one another safe.*

2021 CONSISTORY

Elders:

Craig Conrad - President
Stan Degler
Brian Ott - Vice President
Dave Wolfe

Deacons:

Amanda Angstadt
Kay Bertolet
Joe Bilski
Betty Hoffman
Janice Hoffmaster
LeRoy Miller
John Rizzo - Secretary
Kurt Weiser



FRIEDENS PROUD



Erma Miller handing her Oley Valley Food Pantry donation to Shirley Riegel-Ferreri during the Saturday, January 16 Drive-Thru Drop-Off event. Eleanor Henne and Sue Henne look on.



L to R: Sue Henne, Eleanor Henne and Carol Miller prepare to deliver a pick-up truck full of donations to the Oley Valley Food Pantry on Saturday, January 16.

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=QVArampFNFZtc25yaVlaSS9aS3h1QT09>

Join by Phone

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

Press *6 to unmute/mute yourself

VIRTUAL WORSHIP - Julie Frey

Join us for worship throughout February! 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, February 7, 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: 814 2304 0907

Password: 020721

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81423040907?pwd=OEFucWFjeUVxRS9OK0orM0RsNC9iUT09>

To Participate by Telephone:

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

If prompted, enter the Webinar ID: 814 2304 0907

If prompted, enter the Password: 020721

To mute or unmute, press *6

To Watch Live on YouTube:

Go to the Friedens UCC Oley YouTube channel:

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

Sunday, February 14, 2021, 10:15 am EST

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

Webinar ID: 810 4287 5218

Password: 021421

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81042875218?pwd=eIppQm1UUGNDZ0xOUhR5VzYxWEw1dz09>

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: 810 4287 5218

If prompted, enter the Password: 021421

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

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7 pm 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: 837 0719 9866

Password: 021721

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707199866?pwd=RFpVUUYyaW5DRzlyN0gzYzBIQytjQT09>

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VIRTUAL WORSHIP - Continued

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: 837 0719 9866

If prompted, enter the Password: 021721

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/UClviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQ/featured

Sunday, February 21, 2021, 10:15 am EST

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

Webinar ID: 879 6326 3005

Password: 022121

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87963263005?pwd=aUZnNUJkNmFHcGE3eENHTmIrSINvQT09>

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: 879 6326 3005

If prompted, enter the Password: 022121

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/UClviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQ/featured

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 10:15 am EST

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

Webinar ID: 831 3840 6820

Password: 022821

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83138406820?pwd=S3d4UDg3T0xwewgvQXd6WlVSamlhQT09>

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: 831 3840 6820

If prompted, enter the Password: 022821

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/UClviV4zX6CPBkxfNC_oCuQ/featured





Friedens United Church of Christ
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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 Bucciaglia

Office Administrator

office@friedensuccoley.org

Sunday Virtual Worship

10:15 a.m.

THE LAST LAUGH



