

DECEMBER 2021

Friedens United Church of Christ Monthly Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk



The Advent season calls us to prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do this in many different ways. Many families hang decorations around the house that remind them daily of Christ's coming. Over the years, I have enjoyed the use of an Advent calendar with my children. Each day a window is opened that allows us to peer into the wonder of God's activities. Little scripture passages guide us to see how the people long ago waited for the coming of the Savior. I remember my mother decorating the windows of our home by spraying a white frost over stencils that cast their image into the house. Advent is a wonderful and beautiful time of the Christian year.

Henri Nouwen, a Dutch priest and writer, tells of a small wooden Nativity scene that he saw placed underneath a church altar. The figures of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus were hand-carved, very simple, and smaller than a human hand. But just below the altar was a large light. When it was turned on, the figurines cast a huge shadow on the wall behind them. In this, he saw the message of the Christmas story. In his words, 'God's light shining on this small, humble family casts "large, hopeful shadows against the walls of our life and our world"'¹

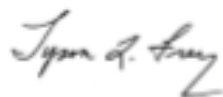
Through humble people like you and me, God shines light to the world. God's hope is seen in our simple acts of love.

In this season of Advent/Christmas, do not despair, but be lifted up by the joyous news that Christ is born. Allow the candles and lights of the season to brighten your life. As the light shines on you, may you cast wondrous shadows of joy, peace, hope and light into the world.

John proclaimed the good news long ago saying, "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness . . ." (John 1:4-5a).

Enjoy God's gift to the world—Jesus our Savior. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Watching with all of you as the shadows lengthen,



The Rev. Dr. Tyson L. Frey



¹King Duncan, "Mary's Witness," *Dynamic Preaching*, September-December, 2021, 70.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Craig Conrad, Consistory President



As the year comes to a close, we look back at the many challenges we have faced. Life will always throw things at us we didn't expect and force us to change the way we do things or to approach things differently. The truth is that none of us really like change, as it puts us out of our daily routine and out of our comfort zones. As we move into the next chapter of Friedens UCC, change is something we will need to face head on, overcome our fears and move in a direction that is maybe different or out of our norm. Change is not always bad and can lead to doors we never thought we could open.

I believe we all realize that the future of Friedens depends on change and different approaches to sharing and teaching our faith.

We need to approach things differently to attract the younger generation and to try to get them involved as they are the future of Friedens UCC. We may need to implement some new music selections that are upbeat and entertaining. We may need to try to direct our messages in ways that relate to our everyday lives that we can carry with us through the week as we work, play or go to school.

We may need to face the fact that we may not be able to stand on our own. If attendance continues to decline, we may need to reach out to other congregations in our area that may also be faced with the same challenges we are and work to join forces. I know we may not want to see some of these things happen, but we have an obligation to fulfill God's wishes of spreading the word and keeping our faith. Our love for Christ and our sharing of faith are our most important missions - no matter how we do this or whom we do this with.

My wish for the new year is that Friedens can continue to grow and that we can come up with ways to bring our congregation together - no matter if it is on our own or joining others like us in our area. I want to ensure you that we all can continue to spread the word and share our faith in a way that satisfies our needs and desires.

We still need folks to step up to serve on Consistory. We will be voting in new consistory members on December 12. Please see any of the current elders or deacons to express your interest.

God bless you all!

HOAGIE SALE - Carol Miller



December marks the last hoagie sale for 2021. Many thanks to the hungry folks who ordered, sold and ate 1151 hoagies in November; the 41 volunteers who prepped for and made the hoagies on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each hoagie week; the generous members and friends who donated 40 hoagies monthly for veterans; and to Jay Estep for delivering the hoagies to Veterans Making a Difference. Stay tuned for information about our 2022 Hoagie Season!

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2022 offering envelopes are available in the Narthex. Save the church postage fees by picking yours up. Please do not begin using these envelopes until January.





2022 WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP



2022 Reader, Flower Sponsor and Bulletin Sponsor sheets will be posted in the Narthex. Sign up for your favorite dates. If you sponsor the flowers (\$40) or bulletins (\$8), please fill out a green sponsor form (found on the shelf under the sponsor sheets) and place it in an offering plate along with your payment. You may also contact the church office at 610-987-3536 to reserve your favorite date/s.

DECEMBER WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



December 5, Second Sunday of Advent, 10:15 am: Christmas Pageant rehearsal begins. Lighting of the Advent wreath. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

December 12, Third Sunday of Advent, 10:15 am: Christmas Pageant rehearsal. Lighting of the Advent wreath. Election of Elders and Deacons. An Advent Fellowship Gathering will take place following the worship service.

December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:15 am: Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24, Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm: Candlelight service with Holy Communion celebrated. Harpist Phyllis Peters will provide special music.

December 26, First Sunday after Christmas, 10:15 am: Rev. Elmer Reinhold will be leading worship. Christmas carols will be the highlight of our worship.

FRIEDENS' CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE - Sharon Weyant-Muir



Share holiday best wishes with your Friedens church family by bringing your Christmas cards to church beginning December 5. They will be "delivered" to their recipients by the Mission Team. In lieu of postage, donations will be accepted to benefit the Youth Group for this free service.

POINSETTIA SALE

There is still time to order poinsettias to decorate the church for Christmas Eve. Sign-up forms can be found in the Narthex. You may also place your order by calling the church office at 610-987-3536. We are offering a selection of red, pink or white flowers. Each 5+ bloom plant from Levensgood's will be \$12. Dedications made "In honor of" or "In memory of" will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You may take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve Worship Service. Order deadline is December 7. Profits benefit future mission trips.



DECK THE HALLS



Come out for some holiday cheer with your Friedens family and help decorate the church for the Christmas season. We will meet at the church on Saturday, December 11 at 8 am. You won't want to miss out on all of the fun and fellowship as we prepare the church for the holiday season. All ages and abilities are welcome.



ADVENT FELLOWSHIP GATHERING

Purpose: A time of fellowship during the busy holiday season with some holiday treats/snacks with your Friedens family and friends.

When: Sunday, December 12, 2021, immediately following the 10:15 am worship service

Where: Weidner Hall

Menu: Light Refreshments... pastries, cookies, veggie tray, fruit tray, cheese & crackers, coffee/tea/hot chocolate, water, and juice

Hosted By: The Mission Team



CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - October 12, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE: Kay Bertolet, Joe Bilski, Craig Conrad, Stan Degler, Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey, Betty Hoffman, Janice Hoffmaster, LeRoy Miller, Brian Ott

TREASURER'S REPORT: The report was reviewed. It was confirmed that the Mission Team will receive 60 cents from the sale of each hoagie. A motion was made and carried to approve the report as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Gregg Bogia suggested to move forward and contact LTL Consultants, Ltd. concerning the sale of the parsonage.

The Elder Emeritus plaque was discussed. A motion was made and carried to move forward with plans to add to the plaque.

The website vendor notified the church office of price changes beginning in November. Denise Bucciaglia will look into other website possibilities.

There are six openings on the Consistory for 2022. Susan Henne and Shirley Ferrari are interested in returning to Consistory. No additional names have been presented.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion regarding the PSEC pledge for 2022 was held. A motion was made and carried to make a pledge of \$3,500 for 2022.

A letter to all Friedens UCC members to address financial support will be drafted by Craig Conrad and reviewed by Brian Ott. It was suggested by Joe Bilski to include comments to the question, "What does the church mean to you?"

Oley Valley Community Library expansion with addition of the puppet room was discussed. Tanya Fisher has agreed to move the contents of the puppet room to one of the Sunday School rooms. Brian Ott will talk with Deb Warner, OVCL board member, concerning additional space and rent increase.

Andy and Kelly Samuelsen have worked to put a Sunday School program together, but only two children are attending. How do we successfully send the message to families to make God top priority in their lives, especially on a Sunday? Is it possible to reach out to clergy in the area and create a community youth group? This might provide a wider range of talent for youth leaders and new ideas.

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CONSISTORY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

The Elders suggested waiting until an actual budget is adopted to revisit searching for a Music Director. The question was raised concerning choir and how many choir members would return. Are we looking for just an organist or someone to fill the role of an organist and a choir director?

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A motion was made and carried to hire Brill's Firewood, LLC to provide snow removal.

The elevator did not pass inspection due to water found in the pit under the elevator and the undercarriage of the elevator was rusted. The water comes from underground due to clogged drains and gutters. The drains and gutters were unclogged and the undercarriage of the elevator was sanded and primed.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Rev. Frey submitted a detailed report for the time period for the month of September 2021. He is concerned about the toll the pandemic is having on our church programming. There are members who are still apprehensive about attending church services in person and are grateful for Zoom and YouTube, which allows them to worship from home. Sunday School attendance consists of two young students. Bible Study has 3-4 people meeting each week.

CLOSING ITEMS

The Hoagie Team sold 978 hoagies for the October sale. The profit was \$3,565. The Mission Team received \$586.80, or \$.60 per hoagie. The veterans group ordered 40 hoagies and congregational members paid for each hoagie. The veterans group would like 40 hoagies for the November sale. December will be the last hoagie sale for 2021.

NEXT MEETING: The next Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at 7 pm.

FINANCIAL UP-DATE - Cindy Conrad, Treasurer

INCOME - Category	January Total	February Total	March Total	April Total	May Total	June Total	July Total	August Total	September Total	October Total	Year to Date
1- Offerings	\$ 34,374.02	\$ 30,014.80	\$ 33,285.00	\$ 7,777.80	\$ 9,705.00	\$ 11,524.80	\$ 9,363.00	\$ 11,290.00	\$ 11,435.03	\$ 11,443.04	\$ 185,258.87
2- Sponsorships	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 204.00	\$ 1,338.00
3- Investments	\$ 2,853.37	\$ 758.30	\$ 3.24	\$ 2,735.89	\$ 753.17	\$ 3.85	\$ 2,739.14	\$ 753.34	\$ 3.85	\$ 2,739.18	\$ 13,380.32
4- Rental/Usage Income	\$ 1,280.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 12,690.00
5- Support Programs/Other	\$ 25.40	\$ 37.26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33.29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 84.96	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85.80
6- PPP Loan Proceeds	\$ 38,389.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,389.02
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 49,121.84	\$ 32,014.36	\$ 35,048.24	\$ 11,766.69	\$ 11,693.46	\$ 14,403.65	\$ 12,663.14	\$ 13,488.33	\$ 13,548.88	\$ 17,743.22	\$ 121,796.97
EXPENSES - Category											
1- Salaries/Benefits	\$ 11,948.02	\$ 10,321.87	\$ 10,861.45	\$ 11,096.52	\$ 11,138.94	\$ 11,277.53	\$ 11,896.00	\$ 11,325.80	\$ 11,875.71	\$ 11,480.31	\$ 113,872.84
2- Operational Expenses	\$ 1,529.84	\$ 1,814.30	\$ 762.62	\$ 598.80	\$ 425.39	\$ 670.38	\$ 762.46	\$ 530.32	\$ 345.49	\$ 239.84	\$ 6,322.87
3- Heating/Utilities	\$ 1,362.08	\$ 2,463.58	\$ 1,525.58	\$ 204.84	\$ 801.89	\$ 678.34	\$ 615.89	\$ 620.57	\$ 618.79	\$ 2,382.05	\$ 10,686.70
4- Property Expenses	\$ 1,233.07	\$ 4,798.80	\$ 1,783.08	\$ 95.80	\$ 103.31	\$ 758.00	\$ 1,894.93	\$ 244.74	\$ 618.24	\$ 274.98	\$ 12,945.84
5- Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,814.00	\$ 671.80	\$ -	\$ 2,650.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,814.00	\$ -	\$ 6,749.80
6- Worship Expense	\$ -	\$ 15.80	\$ 537.51	\$ 38.25	\$ 155.78	\$ 174.25	\$ 425.90	\$ 287.59	\$ 117.87	\$ 587.18	\$ 2,428.34
7- Giving/Mission Donations	\$ 189.08	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 288.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 388.80
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 15,872.41	\$ 19,473.55	\$ 18,532.08	\$ 11,476.21	\$ 12,423.11	\$ 15,696.26	\$ 15,824.19	\$ 12,986.62	\$ 14,538.30	\$ 14,867.28	\$ 121,614.44
** Church Envelope Expenses- (\$27.51)											
INCOME	\$ 34,243.33										
- LESS PPP LOAN PROCEEDS	\$ 38,389.02										
- INCOME - LOAN PROCEEDS	\$ 3,854.31	\$ (706.42)	\$ (7,532.94)	\$ (1,076.12)	\$ (706.42)	\$ (1,498.21)	\$ (3,232.02)	\$ 488.47	\$ (1,704.82)	\$ 2,855.94	\$ (10,649.32)
INVESTMENTS - Category											
BUILDING FUND	\$ 21,981.05	\$ 22,598.89	\$ 21,879.88	\$ 24,183.83	\$ 24,279.17	\$ 25,385.11	\$ 25,272.87	\$ 25,787.59	\$ 25,676.50	\$ 26,588.29	
MEMORIAL/ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 311,287.08	\$ 318,863.40	\$ 328,899.98	\$ 325,448.22	\$ 331,879.36	\$ 322,559.71	\$ 334,463.44	\$ 343,562.05	\$ 328,426.84	\$ 338,294.58	
BAUW GROW INVESTMENT FUND	\$ 82,859.29	\$ 84,536.27	\$ 85,994.13	\$ 87,289.13	\$ 87,879.31	\$ 88,276.85	\$ 88,885.63	\$ 90,389.02	\$ 87,876.81	\$ 88,594.77	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 416,127.42	\$ 425,998.56	\$ 436,773.99	\$ 441,921.18	\$ 444,037.64	\$ 446,241.67	\$ 446,524.54	\$ 454,742.66	\$ 454,183.85	\$ 453,477.64	

Please contact the church office if you would like a copy of this Financial Up-Date emailed to you.





ATTENDANCE HISTORY

OCTOBER	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY	NOTES
2017	90	77	96	96	76	
2018	79	90	71	106*	N/A	*Baptism
2019	96	69	73	69	N/A	
2020	79	71	80	74	N/A	Virtual Worship
2021	41/17	42/16	40/17	51/8	51/13	In-person/Virtual Worship

MISSION TEAM - Sue Henne & Shirley Riegel-Ferreri, Co-Chairs



The Mission Team is currently recycling clean paper only. Please look for the recycling bins with orange paper recycling signs on them located around the church to recycle your bulletin.

Please let Denise in the church office or Sharon Weyant-Muir of Caring Connections know about special birthdays and anniversaries (ending in 0's or 5's) and congratulatory events.



The last mailing of cut coupons to Guam for 2021 will take place the week of December 13. Totals for the year will be included in the January 2022 newsletter.

Continue to drop off your used ink jet cartridges as this is a fundraiser for the Mission Team.

Thank you to everyone who donated food items for the November Oley Valley Food Pantry food collection. November was the month to "Give Thanks" and your generosity was greatly appreciated! We were able to deliver 202 (40 oz.) cans of sweet potatoes, 240 (4 oz.) pouches of Idahoan Instant Mashed Potatoes, 177 cans of Ocean Spray Jellied Cranberry Sauce, 168 (6 oz.) boxes of Stove Top Stuffing Mix, 3 boxes of miscellaneous food items, and 1 box of miscellaneous paper products to the OVFP on Saturday, November 13.



OVFP focus items for December will be canned vegetables (14–15 oz.) and dish soap (28 oz. bottles). The vegetables will be added to the food boxes and the dish soap will be added to care packages for each family. The OVFP is preparing to serve 175 families during the Christmas season. It is their hope to be able to put two cans of vegetables in each food box and one bottle of dish soap in each care package. Our goal is to donate 350 cans of vegetables and 175 bottles of dish soap. Items can be dropped off at either of our Saturday Drive-Thru Drop-Off collections on December 4 and 11 from 9 to 11 am or in church on Sunday, December 5. The December OVFP distribution date is Wednesday, December 15. In addition to the canned vegetables and dish soap, the Mission Team will be donating 350 bars of soap for the care packages, as they plan to put two bars in each package. The dish soap must be brought to church no later than Sunday, December 5 as it will be packed into the care packages earlier in the month.

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MISSION TEAM - Continued



The weekend of December 4 and 5 will be the last chance to make monetary donations or drop off pet supplies to add to the Mission Team's 2021 collection for the Animal Rescue League of Berks County. Please drop off items/monetary donations at the Saturday December 4 Drive-Thru Drop-Off event or bring items/monetary donations to church on Sunday, December 5. It is important to help our furry friends in need as COVID has turned the world around for some of them. Thank you for your generous support of this mission outreach project.

VETERANS MAKING A DIFFERENCE - Jay Estep



On behalf of Doug and Liz Graybill of Veterans Making A Difference (VMAD), the many veterans they serve and me personally, we would like to offer a big thank you and our appreciation for the generosity of the members of Friedens UCC. Hoagie Day on the first Thursday of the month remains one of the most popular and anticipated days on the event schedule for VMAD. Your donations of hoagies for veterans each month has increased over prior years and is greatly appreciated.

The collection of paper products, canned goods and personal care items for VMAD was a great success. Two vehicles loaded to the roof with items were delivered to VMAD on November 6. The Graybills were amazed by the number of items donated. I would especially like to thank the lady who donated a large amount of new clothes for the veterans. Finally, a big thank you goes to the Mission Team who makes all of this come together.

These veterans gave so much for us. This is a very much appreciated way for us to give back a little to them. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

THE BLUE ZONES - Shirley Riegel-Ferreri, Mission Team Co-Chair

Lesson Eight of the Power of 9: "Loved Ones First- *Make Family a Priority*"

Healthy centenarians we met in the Blue Zones put family first. They marry, have children and their lives revolve around that core. There is an emphasis on duty, ritual and togetherness. Grandchildren visit grandparents often, play games together and meet for meals. Lifelong devotion of centenarians produces the following returns: children reciprocate their love, check up on their parents and welcome them into their homes. Studies have shown elders who live with children are less susceptible to disease, eat healthier, have lower levels of stress and have a lower incidence of accidents. Seniors who interact with their families stay sharper than those who live isolated from family. Recently America is trending in the opposite direction. Busy schedules make family time rare in many cases. How do we change this trend?



Strategies: Tips that can help you create your family's Blue Zone

1. Get closer. Consider living in a smaller home. Families bond more easily in smaller homes. If you live in a large home, designate one room where family gathers daily.
2. Establish rituals. Children thrive on rituals - they enjoy repetition. Make one meal a day sacred. Have dinner with grandparents every Tuesday night. Make it a point to purposefully celebrate holidays. Establish vacation traditions.

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THE BLUE ZONES - Shirley Riegel-Ferreri, Mission Team Co-Chair

3. Create a family shrine. Pick a wall and display intergenerational family pictures. Showcase pictures of deceased loved ones and their possessions.
4. Put family first. Invest time and energy in your children, your spouse, and your parents. Play with your children, nurture your marriage and honor your parents.

Buettner, Dan. "The Blue Zones." National Geographic, 2012

HELP OUR PLANET AND YOUR BUDGET

It is possible to have a happy Christmas season and still be kind to the environment. Some suggestions to consider:

- Use LED lights indoors and out, maybe even mini-lights.
- Have a live Christmas tree which can be used for more than one Christmas.
- If you have a cut tree, have it chipped and use as mulch.
- Never burn your tree in the fireplace as it coats your chimney with creosote.
- Make homemade cards (Christmas cards sent annually in the US can fill a football stadium 10 stories high and need 300,000 trees to produce).
- Make gift tags from old cards.
- For wrapping paper, avoid glossy or foil (difficult to recycle due to metals in them); re-use gift wrap by saving the large sections; use fabric scraps, comic papers, maps, old calendars, etc.
- Re-use bows and ribbons.
- Use tape sparingly or not at all.
- Be creative and add many more suggestions to this list!



COVENANT ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING - Carol Miller

Rev. Frey, Shirley Riegel-Ferreri and Carol Miller represented Friedens at the October 24 Covenant Association meeting held via Zoom from 2:30 to 4:40 pm. The Covenant Association is one of five associations that form the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference (PSEC). Thirty-eight authorized clergy, 20 voting lay delegates and one visitor attended the annual Fall Meeting. The Association will soon celebrate the fifth anniversary of its formation.

Following a short gathering worship, delegates were divided into 5-6 member breakout Zoom groups that provided a more personal opportunity to get to know some of the 59 attendees. We introduced ourselves and the church we represented and were asked to note two things we were excited about at our churches.

Rev. Selina Hamilton, Covenant Association Moderator, conducted the business meeting. Topics included:

- Rev. Hamilton provided her first Moderator Report. Rev. Gary Rarick provided the Treasurer's Report. Committee chairs reported.
- October is pastor appreciation month.
- Rev. Bill Worley, PSEC minister, provided an update.
- There are 48 churches in the Covenant Association. Several congregations in the Association are in some state of transition. Attendees were asked to encourage individuals who may have a calling to the ministry.

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COVENANT ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING - Continued

- Rev. Kevin McLemore in Chicago, PSEC Associate Conference Minister Candidate, joined us via Zoom. He introduced himself, shared his faith background and related how he has been led to answer the search and call to serve the PSEC.
- Attendance at churches has not recovered since COVID-19 (current attendance 50-60% pre-COVID). People are not feeling as connected as they were 20 months ago.
- Goal: To help churches plan for ministry in this century and not last century. Question: Are the number of UCC churches in this area viable?
- Amended the Budget to include scholarship assistance for Members in Discernment, individuals becoming pastors, and addressed strengthening mentorship for Members in Discernment.
- Formed a Congregational Collaboration Committee to address churches working together.
- Addressed the need for lay people and pastors to fill various committee positions.

The Spring Meeting of the Covenant Association will be held May 1, 2022 at Zion UCC Blue Mountain (if it is safe to meet in person). Friedens will be looking for lay delegates to represent us. It is a great opportunity to learn what other UCC churches are experiencing, to acquire ideas, to understand how Friedens fits into the "picture," and to serve.

See Carol, Shirley or Rev. Frey with any questions.

PSEC ANNUAL FALL MEETING - Dave Wolfe

Friedens delegates, Ron and Dave Wolfe and Rev. Frey attended the PSEC Annual Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2021 via Zoom. Addressing the essential annual business of the Conference, the 2021 Fall Meeting included reports from various task forces and initiatives sponsored by the Conference, elections of Conference consistory officers and members as well as ratification of the financial activities and plans for the current and coming years. Finally, the attendees voted on the candidate for Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call. Worship services preceded and followed the business meeting.

After a brief worship service, the meeting began with a basic review and confirmation of the agenda, rules of the meeting and the adoption of the minutes from the Spring meeting. With these formalities completed, the attendees voted to confirm the appointments of the following Conference Consistory officers:

Secretary: Mrs. Robin Hightower, Ursinus Association, Peace In Zion UCC

Treasurer: Rev. Robert Fogal, North Penn Association, Carversville Christian Church UCC

Votes were then cast to elect the following Consistory members to fill open terms:

Covenant Association: Rev. Frances Merkel, St. John's Gernant's Church, Leesport

Philadelphia Association: Ms. Mary Loiselle, Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Philadelphia

Next, a presentation of mission work in Lebanon highlighting the challenges of continuing the church's work in Beirut enabled the attendees to better appreciate the many blessings we enjoy in our corner of Pennsylvania. Brief reports of the National Board, Addiction and Recovery Task Force, Environmental Task Force and Racial Justice Initiative were then presented. A highlight



PSEC ANNUAL FALL MEETING - Continued

of these reports was Berks County District Attorney John Adams sharing some childhood memories of the Bethany Children's home while his parents were serving at that facility. He then urged church leaders to help promote and expand the availability and use of the opioid overdose medication Narcan.

After the presentation of the reports, the agenda turned to the financial business of the Conference. The Treasurer's Report summarized the results of 2021 income and spending. Next, the 2022 spending plan was presented and ratified via an attendee vote. Details are available on the PSEC website.

The final piece of official business was the presentation of Rev. Kevin J. McLemore as a candidate for the position of Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call by the search committee assembled to fill that position. Following the glowing endorsements of Rev. McLemore by various members of the search committee, a vote was taken that overwhelmingly ratified his election to that position.

Following the business meeting, another brief worship service was conducted.

NOTE OF THANKS



FROM KARIN BURKER, OLEY VALLEY FOOD PANTRY: On behalf of Friedens Lutheran Church and clients of the Oley Valley Food Pantry, we want to express our gratitude for your recent donations totaling \$1,045. Your generosity allows us to care for people in the community facing difficult times. Families monthly generally receive two boxes of staples such as rice, noodles, pasta/sauce, peanut butter/jelly, canned vegetables, soups/stew, chili, canned chicken/tuna/pork/salmon, cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, condiments, cooking oil, toilet paper/paper towels and personal care items. Each box weighs 22-25 pounds. Each family also receives a well packed cold bag of frozen meats, cheeses, butter, eggs, and frozen vegetables. During holiday seasons turkeys and hams with all the basic trimmings are provided. Although the majority of our food comes to us from Helping Harvest, we also do some of our own shopping to meet the needs of our clients and add variety to the monthly boxes. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry to the elderly and families alike in our community. Your financial contributions are greatly appreciated. We could not do all this without your continued support.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer List: Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers: George Doan (*brother of Sara McMaster*), Fern Schaeffer, Richard Rhoads, Diane Degler, William Angstadt, Barry Swartzentruber (*friend of Sharon Weyant-Muir*), Angela Derr (*sister of Lynn Boyer*), Francis Reichert, Ray Monyer, Julie Christ, Rick Bonifant (*cousin of Cathy Frey*), Haleigh Ott (*great-niece of Sara McMaster*), Lexi Thomas (*cousin of Pastor and Cathy Frey*), and Hank Hyde (*Cathy Frey's nephew*).

Military Prayer List: Please keep all 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*), Sam McMaster (*nephew of Sara McMaster*).

*Prayer
Requests*



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Tate Yerger
2	Cynthia Hoffman
3	Theodore Frey
3	Beth Witman
5	Bruce Smith
6	Carly Nixon
9	Richard Bitting
11	Evonne Keller
12	Bryce Keller
12	Ruth Ann Readinger
13	Craig Conrad
13	Betty Hoffman
13	Kirk McKently
15	Frances Reichert
16	Scott Egolf
16	Abrem King



16	Olivia Leach
16	Amy Whitehouse
18	Christopher Kline
18	Karen Schaeffer
18	Samuel Witman
19	Stacey Gust
19	Fern Schaeffer
22	Josey Williamson
24	LeRoy Miller
25	Janice Hoffmaster
25	Valerie Downing
29	Karen Shuman
30	Mary Ellen Lease
31	Delaney Kegerise
31	Karen Shearer
31	Bertie Witman

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Dan & Julie Christ
11	Henry & Linda Schlegel
12	Jim & Elaine Fox
19	Matthew & Stacey Gust



ELDER EMERITUS PLAQUE DEDICATED - Lee Miller

On Sunday, November 7, at a lively and spiritually uplifting worship service, a new Elder Emeritus plaque was dedicated to the Glory of God. It was All Saints Sunday and the Friedens congregation remembered members, friends and family who entered the Church Triumphant over the past year. Standing with Rev. Frey are Naomi Klein and her son, Art Klein. Naomi received a certificate recognizing her late husband, Ronald Klein, as the newest Elder Emeritus.



FRIEDENS PROUD



Paige Rohrbach, Sophomore at Penn State, granddaughter of Mark and Bernice Hoch and a Friedens member, received the American Degree Award, which is the last and highest degree an FFA member can receive. She accepted her award at the 94th National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. She says her years in the FFA may be ending but she has already embarked on her next journey at Penn State. Her hopes are to become a future FFA Advisor and Ag Teacher. She said it may have been her last convention as a student, but she hopes to return as an advisor one day. Congratulations to Paige and we wish her many great years to come.



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 337 Main Street
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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 School
 9:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Study
 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship
 10:15 a.m.

Newsletter Editors
 Denise Bucciaglia
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