



FRIEDENS UCC
Together we serve with joy and love!



Friedens United Church of Christ Monthly Newsletter - February 2023



If you are a person who pays attention to a schedule...just a warning...it is about to explode! The month of February is quickly filling up with wonderful opportunities for you to participate and share in the life of the congregation.

The month begins with the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 5. Everyone is invited to stay for a luncheon in Weidner Hall, followed by the meeting.

February is also when we move into the liturgical season of Lent. We begin the season with Ash Wednesday, which is on February 22. I will be offering ashes first thing in the morning that day, from 6:30-9 am. We will have coffee available for folks who "drop-in" to receive ashes and Holy Communion. There will also be an evening service at 7 pm. We have invited our friends from Salem UCC and Christ Lutheran Church to join us for worship that evening.

Lent is one of my favorite liturgical seasons. It is a season where we are asked to journey inward into our relationship with God and others. The journey is about drawing closer to God in prayer, meditation, journaling, taking walks, appreciating God's creation, or helping others to experience the still-speaking God in their own lives. We are imposed with ashes on Ash Wednesday, then go into the spiritual depths with God on our faith journey in hopes of deeper levels of faith and the assurance of God's love.

Beginning Thursday, February 23, I will be offering a Lenten Study titled, *Meeting Jesus at the Table* from 1 to 3 pm (see page 2). Please considering participating. Books will be provided. Also starting this month, Lisa Kelly will be offering a small group book study using the book, *The Mindful Christian*, by Dr. Irene Kraegel (see page 2). This group will meet on Sundays from 9 to 10 am, beginning Sunday, February 12. Books will be provided.

Be sure to read about all the upcoming events and activities scheduled for this month. Please keep the church and leaders in your prayers.

See you in church!

Pastor Corrine



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received during the 10:15 am worship service on Sunday, February 19. Please join us as we welcome them into the life of the congregation.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. Friedens UCC will be offering the following:

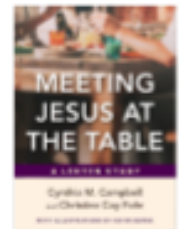
- Drive-by ashes, Holy Communion and coffee. Pastor Corrine will be at the Main Street entrance to the sanctuary from 6:30 to 9 am.
- Combined Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm in the sanctuary with Salem UCC and Christ Lutheran will include:



- Pastor Bob Witmyer preaching
- Ashes will be imposed
- Holy Communion
- Giving up "Alleluias"
- Fastnachts and Fellowship following the worship service in Weidner Hall

LENTEN STUDY: MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE

Please consider participating in the Lenten Book Study on Thursdays from 1 to 3 pm in the Conference Room, beginning February 23. We will discuss this newly released book, considering whom should we invite to Sunday dinner and who is left out and behind in our culture. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Books will be provided. There is no charge for this event.



SMALL GROUP STUDY



Join us for a small group opportunity as we gather to discuss the book, *The Mindful Christian*, by Dr. Irene Kraegel. This book "serves as a guide for readers who are curious about how to integrate Christian Faith with mindfulness practice. The book offers inspiration for those seeking healing and peace along life's journey, as well as practical exercises for those ready to dive into mindfulness practice." Mindfulness and meditation can lead to lower stress, better sleep, increased patience and a calmer presence. The small group will meet on Sunday mornings from 9-10 am in one of the Sunday School classrooms starting February 12 and run through April 2. Books will be provided and you can sign up in the Narthex or by calling the church office. A Zoom link will be provided if anyone wants to participate online. There is no charge for this event.

THURSDAY THOUGHTS

Be sure to check your email for "Thursday Thoughts." Pastor Corrine includes an inspirational message, events and other information about the life of the congregation. Please ensure that the church office has your correct email address so you don't miss out on receiving these messages.



SUNDAY SCHOOL / VBS - Janet Hoffmaster

We need volunteers! The kids are enjoying their time in Sunday School and the parents have asked if Friedens has plans to hold Sunday School more than just one Sunday a month. We would love to tell them YES - but to do so, we need volunteers. If you are interested in helping out, please email me at chickenJan5@aol.com or call 610-987-3653. I will then share the curriculum and let you know how everything flows. Perhaps you have some new ideas we can try.



Mark your calendar! Vacation Bible School will be returning to Friedens, Sunday, June 11 through Thursday, June 15. More information to follow as plans evolve. If you are interested in helping or have suggestions, please contact me.

AMAZONSMILE UPDATE



AmazonSmile was launched in 2013 to make it easier for Amazon customers to support their favorite charity. Friedens has been participating in this program since 2017 and has received donations from your purchases. AmazonSmile has decided to wind down the program by February 20, 2023. They will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where they feel they can make a meaningful change. Thank you for participating in this program which benefited Friedens UCC.

iGIVE.com

iGive.com allows you to support Friedens United Church of Christ by donating a percentage of your online shopping. It's totally free for you and totally free for Friedens. iGive is super easy to use. After registering at iGive.com, simply select your store from their list of over 2,300 participating internet stores. iGive.com will send Friedens a check each time donations amount to \$25. You shop. Friedens United Church of Christ gets money. Free.



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



The Mission Team will be collecting spaghetti (1 lb. boxes) and tuna (5 or 12 oz. cans) for the Oley Valley Food Pantry during February. Donations can be brought to church and placed in the appropriately marked boxes in the Mission Corner under the stairs in the Narthex. Donations can also be dropped off at the Saturday, February 11 Drive-Thru Drop-Off, 9 to 11 am in the church parking lot. The date for the OVFP February distribution is Wednesday, February 15.

The Mission Team continues to collect or will begin collecting the following items throughout the year: cut coupons, used ink jet cartridges, greeting cards, new and old calendars, eye glasses for the Lion's Club (see Joel Johnson for info or questions), and new or gently used clothing for the Kennedy House in Reading. These items can be brought to church at any time and placed in the appropriately labeled boxes located in both narthex areas. They can also be dropped off at any monthly Drive-thru Drop-off Collection.



Continued on Page 4

MISSION TEAM - Continued

The special monthly offering being collected on the second Sunday in February will be donated to the Animal Rescue League of Berks County. The purpose is to give extra help to our furry friends during the cold winter season.



PERU MISSION TRIP - Sue Henne



At this writing, 26 bags of shoes have been filled. This equates to approximately 800 pounds of shoes collected this far! We are well on our way to our goal of collecting at least 5,000 pounds of shoes. There are shoe collection boxes located throughout the Oley Valley, Blandon, and Fleetwood areas. Shoes can be dropped off at church any time and placed under the stairs in the Narthex, or they can be dropped off at any Drive-Thru Drop-Off event on February 11, March 11, or April 15, 9 to 11 am in the church parking lot. If anyone has questions, can place a collection box at their place of work or another prominent location, or needs shoe flyers to hang up or hand out, please call Sue Henne at 610-451-3209.

Mark your calendars! The Peru Mission Trip crew and friends will be hosting an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 4 (snow date Saturday, March 25) from 8 to 11 am in Weidner Hall. Breakfast will include: pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, orange juice, milk, assorted fruit cups, and Friedens own homemade shoo-fly pie. Attendees who bring shoes to donate for the Shoe Drive will receive an entry for each pair brought to the breakfast that morning. A drawing will be held at 11 am for a \$25 Designer Shoe Warehouse (DSW) Gift Card. Winner must be present when drawing occurs to win. Tickets bought prior to the day of the breakfast will be \$10 ages 13 and up, \$5 for ages 6 to 12, ages 5 and below are free. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15. Eat-in or take-out will be available.

The Peru Mission Trip crew will be selling sandwich coupons for The Shop, located at 29-45 Main Street in Fleetwood. The coupons will be available for sale beginning mid-February through the end of March. Coupons are redeemable during the entire month of March. The cost of a coupon is \$6.50 with a profit of \$3.50 per coupon sold coming back to the Mission Trip Fund. Sandwich options include: Italian, ham & cheese, turkey & cheese, roast beef & cheese, tuna and cheese. Cheese options are also available for each of the sandwich choices, and all sandwiches include lettuce, tomatoes, and onions. If you have any questions or would like to purchase sandwich coupons, please see Sue Henne before or after church or at the monthly Drive-Thru Drop-Off events in February and March. Coupons will also be available for sale at the All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast on March 4.

We are still looking for a few more people to join our group to build houses in Peru. If you are even the least bit interested, speak to Brian Ott, Lynn Boyer, or Sue Henne ASAP.

HELP SAVE OUR PLANET

Even through the cold, dark month of February, we can still be earth-friendly:

- *Save home heating energy* by wearing more layers of clothing so you can turn down your thermostat a few degrees. Use weather stripping or expanding foam to prevent heat loss around electrical outlets and door and window frames. Turn down your water heater setting to 120 degrees.



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HELP SAVE OUR PLANET - Continued

- *Switch to LED or CFL Lightbulbs*, which can save 25-80% of energy use, are mercury-free, and last longer than incandescent bulbs.
 - *Shovel snow* before it turns to ice or at least forget salt to melt ice on your walkways. Try safe commercial ice melt brands or even pickle juice!
 - *Shovel snow (sensibly) instead of using a snow blower*. These machines create one pound of carbon monoxide per hour plus volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxide which go right into the air we are breathing.
 - *Don't leave your car running long* just to have it warm for you to climb into. An idling car can release as much pollution as a moving car. Carpool when possible.
 - *Avoid disposable, chemical-based hand warmers*. Make your own with fabric scraps and rice or flax seeds. Simply place in the microwave for 15 to 20 seconds and stick into your pocket.
- Spring is coming but until then, let's survive winter while helping our planet survive!

DECEMBER FINANCIAL SNAP SHOT - Cindy Conrad, Treasurer

INCOME - Category	December Total
1- Offerings	\$ 22,474.29
2- Sponsorships	\$ 206.00
3- Investments	\$ 247.12
4- Rental/Usage Income	\$ 1,800.00
5- Support Programs/Other	
6- PPP Loan Proceeds	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 24,727.41
EXPENSES - Category	
1- Salaries/Benefits	\$ 11,560.33
2- Operational Expenses	\$ 1,892.82
3- Heating/Utilities	\$ 4,111.04
4- Property Expenses	\$ 402.64
5- Insurance	\$ 2,561.00
6- Worship Expense	\$ 380.50
7- Giving/Mission Donations	\$ 480.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 21,388.33
INCOME	
- LESS PPP LOAN PROCEEDS	
-- INCOME - LOAN PROCEEDS	\$ 3,339.08
INVESTMENTS - Category	
BUILDING FUND	\$ 27,774.23
MEMORIAL/ENDOWMENT FUND	\$ 268,148.37
RALPH GROFF INVESTMENT FUND	\$ 70,284.57
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$ 366,207.17

IN OUR PRAYERS

Prayer List: Please keep the following members and friends in your prayers: Betty Heck, Naomi Klein, Judy Fleck, Wendy Lesko (*friend of Betty Hoffman*), Kathy Weidner, David Adams, Scott Youse (*son of Linda Youse*), the family of Matthew Miller (*friend of Sue Henne*), Cathy Schaeffer (*friend of Sara McMaster*), Georgette Bush (*friend of Dawn Bortz*), Gloria Romig, Sara McMaster, Ray Monyer, Haleigh Ott (*great-niece of Sara McMaster*).



Military Prayer List: Please keep all those serving to protect our country in your prayers.

NOTES OF THANKS



On behalf of the clients of the Oley Valley Food Pantry, we want to express our gratitude to you for your recent donations totaling \$235. Your generosity allows us to continue to care for people in the community facing difficult times by helping them to provide food for their families. We could not do all we need to do without your support! - Karin Burkner, OVFP

As Wildlife Rehabilitators, it's very easy to get hyper-focused on the never ending flow of animals we treat and care for. With the catastrophic fire that destroyed our clinic on December 5, staff, volunteers, supporters, the community, and people we never met showed up, helped out, donated, and gave much needed hugs. The outpouring of donations online and in person has been nothing short of remarkable. I wanted to send a note to thank you for your \$500 donation and assure you that we sincerely appreciate your role during the toughest challenge Red Creek Wildlife Center has ever faced. - Peggy Hentz, Founder

Thank you for your generous gift of \$750 for Christmas gifts to the Faith Fund. This special fund provides the homelike environment and therapeutic services needed to support the physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of our youth. It also assists us to provide services such as life skills training, birthday parties, church services and incentive trips, which are at the heart of providing a home setting. We appreciate your willingness to help our youth overcome their challenges, regain their childhood, and develop life skills to become productive adults in a positive and supportive environment. Together we are making a difference in the life of a child and their families. Thank you for helping our youth take the right steps to a brighter future. - Carolyn Shultz Spano, Director of Development, Bethany Children's Home

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

4 Evan Hoch
4 Paige Rohrbach
6 Deb Hannum
6 Mark Rittwage
7 Lisa Kegerise
8 Mark Hoch
12 Peter Littlefield
14 Kurt Weiser
16 Barry Hoffman
16 Matthew Schaeffer
17 Linda Parkhouse



19 Kathy Weidner
20 Russell B. Leach, Jr.
21 Chris Hannum
21 Jeff Parkhouse
21 Kathleen Rhoads
22 Andrew Kline
24 Linda Egolf
24 Cameron Rittwage
27 Carl Levan
29 Megan Schaeffer

2023 WORSHIP SPONSORSHIP

2023 Reader, Flower Sponsor and Bulletin Sponsor sheets are 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.



DATE	BULLETIN SPONSOR	FLOWER SPONSOR
February 5, 2023	Larry Spayd	Kirk & Betty McKently
February 12, 2023	Mark & Bernice Hoch	Mark & Bernice Hoch
February 19, 2023	Jeff & Linda Parkouse	Tom Kising
February 26, 2023	Kirk & Betty McKently	Kirk & Betty McKently
March 5, 2023	Erik & Veronica Schoellkopf	Bill & Kathy Mathues
March 12, 2023		
March 19, 2023	Fern Schaeffer	
March 26, 2023	Erik & Veronica Schoellkopf	
April 2, 2023		
April 9, 2023- Easter 7 am		Vicki Row
April 9, 2023- Easter 10:15 am		Vicki Row
April 16, 2023	Joey & Dee Johnson	Joey & Dee Johnson
April 23, 2023	Dot Hamm	Sheila Gilberry
April 30, 2023	Barb Covey	Kay Bertolet
May 7, 2023	Betty Heck	
May 14, 2023 - Mother's Day	Gloria Frankhouser	Jeff & Linda Parkhouse
May 21, 2023	Barb Covey	Anna Hafer & Barry Hafer
May 28, 2023 - Pentecost		
June 4, 2023 - Trinity Sunday		
June 11, 2023	Erma Miller	
June 18, 2023 - Father's Day	Barb Covey	
June 25, 2023		

ATTENDANCE HISTORY

DECEMBER	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	XMAS EVE 4-7-10 pm	FOURTH SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY	NOTES
2018	104	128	106	65-112-100	169	50	
2019	61	89	111	51-129-76	154	55	
2020	89	84	92	92	87	N/A	Virtual
2021	78/12	61/NA	101/14	75/38	23/15	N/A	In-Person/Virtual
2022	73/11	86/25	71/28	126/42	24/28	N/A	In-Person/Virtual



Friedens United Church of Christ
 337 Main Street
 Oley, PA 19547

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FEBRUARY 2023

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

www.friedensuccoley.com

Sunday Worship
 10:15 am

Rev. Corrine Dautrich
 610-739-8471
pastor@friedensuccoley.org

Denise Bucciaglia
 Office Administrator
office@friedensuccoley.org

Regular Church Office Hours
 Monday thru Thursday
 9 am to 1 pm

Newsletter Editors
 Rev. Corrine Dautrich
 Denise Bucciaglia
 Carol Miller

THE LAST LAUGH

