



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

The late Minnie Pearl used to have a story about a man who told her she looked like a “fresh breath of Spring.” “Actually, those weren’t his exact words,” she said. “He said I looked like the end of a hard winter.” Well, we are coming to the end of what has been a “hard” summer. June and July were extremely hot. The corn didn’t come in. (Excuse me I don’t know if that’s the right term or not.) Then we had Christmas in August for the second year in a row and we got a break in the heat. Although we have Coal Fest and Father’s Day in June, I’m going to have to figure out how to get our summer Christmas celebration earlier. What was especially good about the service was all the smiles I saw as you left.

Attendance has been pretty good this summer. I think most Sundays have been in the upper 30s with Father’s Day, which tends to a “low” Sunday at 37. Hopefully as we enter into Fall, more people who have been traveling will be home.

We have had a fair number of people pass this year and I have already talked with Vance Heil about the possibility of doing a “Blue Christmas” during Advent. This is a special service for everyone facing their first Christmas without a loved one, or those who have a difficult time at Christmas either because of lack of family or having lost a loved one during the Christmas Season. I will be working with the Spiritual Growth Committee to decide when and how to do this. Vance will provide us with a list of those in the community who have passed this year and we will invite them as well as those from our congregation who have lost loved ones.

By the time you get this, I will have attended Erasing the Stigma, which is a Mental Health conference at the Shrine. I went to one about four years ago and really enjoyed it because it is locally centered and gave me resources should I need to refer someone. Along this line is a Conference in November called Widening the Welcome. Widening the Welcome combines the UCC Mental Illness Network and the UCC Disabilities Network. I had been to the founding meeting three years ago and then the next year in St. Louis. Last year it was in Columbus, OH as it is this year. A lot of Widening the Welcome is about teaching ministers and congregations how to be more inclusive of people with disabilities, whether physical, head injury, mental illness, etc. Our Conference would like to begin a group centered around Widening the Welcome and since this is a passion of mine, I seem to be getting in on the ground floor so to speak. This particular conference is the first three days of November, so I am working with the Council to plan what we will do the Sunday I am gone.

September 2012

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Greeter and Ushers for September

September 2 - Dale & Sharon Reese, Lorrie Lehman

September 9 - Albert & Caroline Galle, Janice Schmidt

September 16 - Carol Mercer, Susie Stewart and Sunday School

September 23 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

Sept. 30 & Oct. 7 - David and Stacey Pilbean, John Barrett, Irving Schickedanz



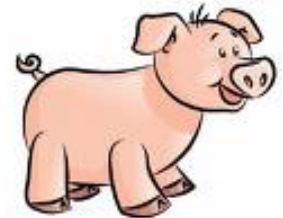
October Wurstmarkt - Saturday October 6

It's that time again . . . What time you say.. It's Wurstmarkt time!!

Pick up your apron, dust off those pie pans, get your potato peeler oiled and stretch those legs. Come one come all to the help at the Wurstmarkt.

The Funds and Fellowship are in need of workers and lots of those wonder pies/cakes.

If you have any questions please contact Susan Oyler or Bobbi Duffie. See you at the Wurstmarkt!!



Prayers for the family

On August 20, Ken Lehman was air-lifted from Sparta to St. Louis University Hospital. As of this writing he is in ICU. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Tom and Bobbi Duffie for being awarded "Yard of the Month" for August by Marissa Chamber of Commerce.



Team Work in Action!!!

Nurse Bobbi saved the day! Many thanks to Bobbi Duffie and all those who helped Lucille Schmierbach on August 19. Bobbi got to Lucille almost immediately. Susan Oyler called her daughters, Brenda and Connie, while our visitor, Andrew called 911 and stayed on the phone with the dispatch giving them information. Larry Matzenbacher went and got screw drivers and he and some of the other men got the pew removed so that when Marissa's First Responders got to the church and then the paramedics, they had room to work. Lucille was sent home from Sparta ER that evening with instructions for follow-up with her other doctors. Thanks to everyone who stayed calm, though concerned as the emergency was handled professionally and proficiency.

Rally Day ! ! ! ! !

Behold we do a new thing. Rally Day will be September 16 this year and we will be doing something different. We will be meeting at the Big Pavilion at the Rec Center. For those of you, like me, who do not actually know where this is. I am told when you come in the Rec Center you take a right turn between the two lakes and follow that road.

At 8:00AM will begin the fishing derby, though you are welcome to fish earlier if you wish. At 9:00AM we will say a blessing and eat. The meal will consist of sausage and breakfast casseroles, as well as fruit and coffee cake. Funds and Fellowship will provide all food as well as coffee, juice and milk. After breakfast we will have a short worship service. Kevin McDonald and John Barrett have agreed to provide music. Songs will be old camp/church school favorites like "Michael Row the Boat Ashore" and our theme for the day will be John 21: 1-14 when after the resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples at the Sea of Galilee.

There are picnic tables at the pavilion, but some of you may want to bring lawn chairs. We will also have washers and those of you who wish to may stay afterwards to fish more, play washers or other games you bring, or just enjoy the weather. Please invite as many friends as you can.



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Over vacation I came to realize that I had gotten off track from what I believe God called me to do. It's interesting that while talking to a Mormon at the Mormon Trails Center in Omaha, who could not understand how I could have read the Book of Mormon and attend a Ward (church) every other Sunday for 18 months, and not have converted to become a Mormon, that I came to understand how I had detoured from my original call. As I talked to her about what I believe my call to be and had to say it vocally, I realized I have been pushing too much for advance planning and growth of numbers instead of working on the things I'm good at which has more to do with our community. Don Wagner loaned me a book on Rural Ministry which centered my thinking again, but as the book is almost 20 years old, I went on line to find out if there was a newer version. There isn't, but I did find some other books on Rural Ministry.

Truth be told, I will probably not read everything I have if I live to be 100. I've told several people that if the day ever comes when I'm broke and homeless, I'm going to take my books and build a shelter out of them. One person said that would give me pretty good insulation also, at least better than a cardboard box.

On and off for the last couple of years I have talked with council about what and when my Sabbatical would be. One of my friends always splits his. The first one he took as one month per year over three years to get a doctorate. This past one he has taken as two parts in one year.

One of the other conclusions I came to on vacation was that I really need to take half (six weeks) of my Sabbatical next year. The portion for next year will focus on a Spiritual Retreat. (I have three places under consideration so far; 2 in New Mexico and one in Iowa) and some time to get more active and get some weight off. I tend to lose weight on vacations because I am more active, though this year it came right back when we got home and I went back to old eating habits.

The second year, I am hoping for a trip to the Middle East, but that will depend on whether I can get funding and how much unrest is in the region at the time. You all have put aside a good portion of the Sabbatical fund so we will see. There is still plenty of time to discuss this and plan. I will share more as I know more and I hope you will dream with me. Some churches decide to go into maintenance mode while the pastor is on Sabbatical and some use it as a time of growth also. Hopefully, we will dream and plan together.

Blessings

~ Pastor Gail ~

Friedens Quilters

Tuesday, 08/21/2012 will be a happy day for the quilters. It should be the day our first quilt comes out of the frame. We began this project on May 18th. In celebration, we have planned an outing to an old-time department store in Perryville, Missouri that has a huge stock of quilting supplies, and of course we'll have lunch. Our next project will be smaller, two baby quilts. Many, many thanks to these quilters and our support group .



SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	September 21: Church will be open for prayer all day. October 1: Evangelical Daughters 7:00 pm ; October 3: Choir Practice 7:30 pm October 6: Wurstmarkt ; October 7: World Communion Sunday and Neighbors in Need Offering					
2 Labor Sunday	3 Labor Day	4 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 6:30 pm Potluck	5 Choir 7:30 pm	6	7 Pastor Gail Out at Annual Meeting @ Shrine	8 Pastor Gail Out at Annual Meeting
9 Biddleborn Schlatzfest	10 Blood Drive	11 Council Mtg 7:00 pm	12 Choir 7:30 pm	13	14	15
16 Rally Day @ the Rec Area	17	18	19 Choir 7:30 pm	20 Chamber Mtg @ Fire House 7 pm	21 International Day of Prayer for Peace	22 Rushing for a Cure @ Village Park
23	24	25	26 Choir 7:30 pm Yom Kippur	27	28	29





September Anniversaries

Alan & Susan Oyler	2
Mervin & Ruth Erb	3
David & Evelyn Schneidewind	6
Jeremy & Jessica Dressel	10
Ryan & Crystal Cathcart	11



September Birthday's

Jessica Dressel	5
John Fauth	6
Dean Robert	9
Nicole Sinn	10
Marlene Karsten	11
Pete Dressel	11
Robert Lehman	11
Imogene Lehman	12
Todd Erb	13
Donna Galle	15
Brandon Schmierbach	17
Melanie Rahlfs	21
Dorothy Erb	21
Crystal Cathcart	27
Justin Raban	30

Neighbors in Need Offering

Neighbors in Need is one of the UCC five annual offerings for mission. This particular offering supports ministries of Justice and Compassion throughout the United States, including the Council of American Indian Ministries. Through UCCTakeAction.org our national Justice & Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Some of the avenues of interest are the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Native Americans served by the UCC are members of the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidasta, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin and northern Nebraska, as well as one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, MN. Date of offering is October 7.



Church Mouse

As a little mouse I get to see and hear a lot. Although I still miss Ma-
ble, I do enjoy hearing Nancy Barbee play. She can really tickle those ivo-
ries. Soon the choir will be back. Yipee. Then I'll overhear some good gos-
sip.



The quilting ladies are doing spectacular work on Tuesday morn-
ings, but they don't gossip much – at least not about church doings. They
did comment that in a few weeks it will be the annual conference at the Shrine of Our
Lady of the Snows. I think the delegates from our church will be Pastor Gail and
Marlene Karstens. At Funds and Fellowship the other evening, I think I heard that Carol
Mercer would be part of the Friday evening entertainment. Go, Friedens!

Also at a Funds and Fellowship meeting I heard more about the fun Rally Day
they are planning for September 15th at the Rec Area. I'm not sure where that is, and it
is too far for me to go, but they were planning a mighty fine breakfast or brunch. People
can even go fishing. Susan Oyler and her committee are good planners and workers.

The week before on Monday, the 10th of September, there will be a Battle of the
Badges Blood Drive here at Friedens. That's where I'll get a good store of snacks for
my hidey-holes.

Then on October 6th there will be another of our great Wurstmärkte. Oh, I do love
them so. All that wonderful food, including the homemade desserts! It just sets my
mouth to watering and my whiskers to trembling.

Isn't our church great? We have wonderful, caring people - and I care, too.

~ Mouse ~

Fruth Rental Property News

Kevin McDonald and Dwayne Weltz are in need of some help with the repairs
to the Fruth house. As of 08/18/2012 the bathroom has been gutted, materials pur-
chased and Kevin has started setting the studs for wall replacement. Most of this
work is done after work in the evenings. If you can spare a few hours, please give
Kevin a call 618-407-7197.

The Mouse Teaches about the Adam's Apple . .

Even though I am a little mouse I can read, and a book called BRINGING HOME THE BACON AND CUTTING THE MUSTART, about the origins of food phrases, was left on the table in fellowship hall. The book was turned to the page of "Adam's Apple".

Did you know folklore has it that the protuberance in a man's throat formed by the thyroid cartilage, was made when a hunk of the forbidden fruit (an apple), which Adam had eaten in the Garden of Eden, stuck in his throat? That's a fun story that is centuries old.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

FROM 2:00-6:00 P.M.



If you can't give blood, please help us out!
There will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule.
Please sign up your help is needed!



Friedens United Church of Christ

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