



The Tidings

APRIL 2013

Ministerial Moments

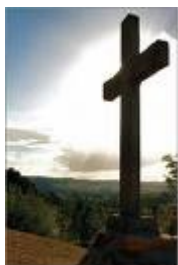
It's hard to believe that Easter is past and spring has sprung. Many thanks to all of you who worked to make our Community Sunrise service a success. The Daffodils are blooming. I really enjoy this time of year, seeing the flowers bloom, baby bunnies learning where Ozzy can't get to them so they can tease him and eventually the sight of young birds learning to fly. I'm sure most of you remember the old "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature!" commercials. Lately, it seems that Mother Nature, or God, has been fooling with us on the weather front. Whether you believe in global warming or not, it is clear that something is changing regarding the seasons. I always did feel that March had a tendency to go "out like a lion" rather than in like one, but this year has been especially upside down. The good thing, however, is that we have had enough rain and snow for the drought to be declared over. That is something to be thankful for. We will see if it lasts into the summer.

March 3 was our first Evangelism brainstorming suggestions. One session was that we contact the Village regarding all people opening water accounts as the surest way of finding new people. The Village has said no, even if we were to do some sort of Welcome Wagon including other churches and the Chamber. I was told they had said no to the Chamber some years past regarding this also. We can however, put together a brochure and stack them in the Village office so that those who wish can pick one up. I am in the process of putting together a brochure which will include all of the churches plus information on the food pantry, Sonshine Corner and Ministerial Alliance services.

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Mascoutah Quilt Show

Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 9:00-2:00 at St John United Church of Christ, 55 West Church Street, Mascoutah, IL 62258, [618-566-7311](tel:618-566-7311). More than 100 new and antique quilts will be displayed at the Annual Quilt Show. Bed Turning at 9:45; demonstrations at 11:00 and 12:30. Items for sale include baby quilts, queen size quilts, and hand crafted items. There will be a raffle prize drawing for a youth quilt, with all proceeds donated to Dubois Center. You can purchase raffle tickets at the quilt show.

Attendance prizes will be awarded. Luncheon available. \$2.00 admission.

Greeter and Ushers for April and May

April 7: Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter, Carol Mayfield

April 14: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn

April 21: Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal & Donna Galle

April 25: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald

May 5: Linda Jones, Dale & Sharon Reese

May 12: Mother's Day - Evangelical Daughters

May 19: Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner

May 26: Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb

New Addition to the Garage

We have a new addition to our garage, a Gently used refrigerator. This was a big help during our Wurstmarkt as we could use it for our extra ice, our mashed potatoes supplies. Ken and Bev Terveer were the gracious donors. We are very thankful to have this new addition.

Vacation Bible School !!!

Marisa Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Vacation Bible School this summer. The dates are June 24 to 28. Times TBD. Volunteers are always needed for the planning team. Please contact Pastor Becky Williams at 295-3281.

Faith Baptist Church will be offering V.B.S. as well from June 10 to the 14th.

April Birthdays

Ken Fitch	2
Mike Raban	3
Savanah Sinn	5
Kay Trotter	7
Betty Bollmeier	8
Eli Schmierbach	10
Sandy Triefenbach	11
Jeremy Dressel	15
Allison Curry	15
Karen Bearley	17
Danielle Sigman	18
Joyce Fitch	26
Melinda Schneidewind	30



April Anniversaries

Dean & Kathleen Robert	4
Irving & Mabel Schickedanz	23
Milton & Blanche Schmierbach	29

Carpet Fund News

For those who are wondering, there is currently \$8,430 in the carpet fund. Daughters will be adding to this amount from that collected at the Wurstmarkt. The last time we got a quote to re-carpet all areas currently carpeted except the offices, the estimate was \$10-\$12,000. We are getting close!!

Ministerial Moments Continued

Another idea was to put together visitation teams to go with me to visit those members we have not seen in awhile. Many of these are elderly who don't get out much, but not all. They are mostly those not already on my visitation list. I look forward to this as it will update my visitation, and the teams will be especially good to have during the six weeks I am on Sabbatical. Our next Evangelism Committee meeting will be after church on April 14. At this time we hope to put together our visitation teams and organize our list of who to visit. It would probably be good to also put together our committee to decide what the church will do during my Sabbatical (lay leaders, guest preachers, on-call pastors, etc.) If you have any other ideas to add, please come to the meeting.

We have toyed with the idea of participating in the Coal Fest; either the parade or having some kind of a booth. This discussion will be ongoing.

On March 19, I once again had Boundary Training. Illinois South Conference requires pastors to take this every three years. This year much of our discussion revolved around social media and what are called "safe practices". I learned some things which I could be doing better and the discussion regarding the pitfalls of social media were informative. As a small church we have a tendency to think "It can't happen here", but abuses of privilege take place everywhere and regular updates are good safeguards.

March 2 was Day of Discipleship which also focused on revitalization this year. Our speaker was the author of one book I have studied and I was able to go to a workshop with him after the keynote. One of the things he told us was that change and revitalization takes time; years, not months to last. He also assured one of my colleagues that there is no point of no return for a congregation. Any congregation can revitalize and have a vibrant spiritual life regardless of how small.

There will be another Revitalization workshop held at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon on April 27 from 9:00 – 3:30. It will be led by Rev. David Schoen of the UCC Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministries. It is called "Your Church ALIVE: How to Meet, Love and Serve Your Neighbors". Cost is \$30 if paid before April 12, \$35, after. It includes lunch. Everyone interested in revitalizing our church should try to go. We do have funds budgeted if someone needs or wants financial assistance.

Thanks to each of you for the work you do.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

Comments from the Church Mouse

Wow! Wasn't our Wurstmarkt great?! We had more people come to eat than we ever had. It was a pretty steady flow—I should know, I had a hard time scurrying out to get a crumb or two. Yes, our workers did a fine job on March 16.



The Bunco event went well also. Those who attended seemed to have a good time. At least, they did by their laughter and happy noise.

Way to go Funds and Fellowship! Two successful activities within the month of March.

Our Lenten services were well attended. It's nice to have First United Methodist and the Lenzburg people join us along with Biddleborn and Darmstadt. When the service was here at Friedens, I got such a warm and spiritual feeling. If I, a little mouse, felt that way, I am sure the two legged attendees did.

Although I don't venture outside the church much, I know that spring weather is here, or almost here. I saw some pretty daffodils blooming earlier, and then rain and a cold snap made them bend their lovely stems and blossoms. It made me sad to see that, but I loved their springy color. Now crocuses are blooming, and if I squint, I can see some Bradford Pear trees in flower a few blocks down from the church.

Easter and spring, the "rebirth" time of year, is so pleasant. There was a big Easter Egg Hunt in town the week before Easter, but it was too far away for me to go. I do love chocolate candy and I am sure there was some there. Oh, well, I have enough scraps in storage to see me through until we have another dinner or special event.

Enjoy spring time and always remember what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did so we may enjoy life here on earth and after wards when our time on earth is done.

THANK YOU !!!

Big THANK YOU to all those that helped with the readings at the Maundy Thursday Service and the Sunrise Service breakfast.

Friedens UCC Church Family is the best!!

BUNCO ! ! !

BUNCO! That is the word you wanted to shout at the Bunco Game sponsored by the Fund and Fellowship Committee. The event was very well attended. Forty participants made up ten tables. Many of the guests had never played Bunco before but they soon found out it's a very simple game to play. In a short time everyone was comfortable with the game and was able to visit and play.

Prizes were awarded to Nolan Cathcart for most Wins, to Maddie Stewart for Most Loses, to Rita White for Traveler, to Ally Curry for child's Most Buncos and a tie to Diane Peebles and Steph Voytas for adult Most Buncos.

Our silent auction items were very well received and proved profitable. The total for the day was \$518.00. Proceeds from the event will be given to the New Athens Home.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the game, gave silent auction items, or donated refreshments. It seemed one and all enjoyed the day and the general consensus was that many would like to play more often.

Wurstmarkt News ! ! !

March's Wurstmarkt was a record breaking day. We served 470 meals (450 was our last record). We ended the night with just a perfect amount of leftovers. (I think many were a little sad that there wasn't many leftovers 😞) The country store only had a few back bones, and smoked hocks left on Sunday Morning. Luckily the bad weather held off until Sunday.

THANKS TO EVERYONE for a perfect day. My most favorite thing is when the compliments start coming in. Many compliments were given on the food, service, and just the overall experience. Without everyone's willingness to do what is needed we would never be able to share such compliments. One couple said "they check the advertisements every week and go to a different Wurstmarkt or dinner on the weekend. They said hands down ours is the best they have ever had". They also wanted to know when our next dinner would be. What a compliment!

Our totals aren't all in yet before deadline for newsletter but things are looking very good. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!!!!

Evangelical Daughter's also thanks all those who donated crafts to the Craft Fair. Over \$580 was collected for crafts and \$83.00 for the raffle.

APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Daughters Mtg @ 6:30 pm	2	3 Funds & Fellowship 6 pm Choir 7:00 pm	4	5	6
7	8	9 Council Mtg @ 7:00 pm	10 Choir 7:00 pm	11	12	13 Spring BBQ @ Biddleborn
14 Evangelism Com. Mtg after Church	15	16 Spiritual Council Mtg 7:00 pm	17 Choir 7:00 pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Choir 7:00 pm	25	26	27 Evangelism workshop (See below)
28 Pastor Relations Com. Mtg after Church	29	30	April 27: "Your Church Alive" Evangelism workshop at St. Paul UCC in Lebanon 9:00 am to 3:30 pm			



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*"Through the Spirit we are
a Church on the Move:
Welcoming, Caring,
Sharing."*



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