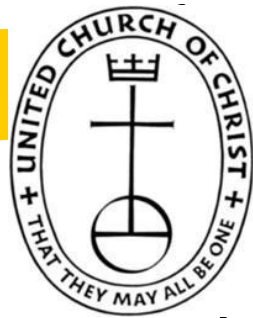




July 2014



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

Having past Pentecost, we are now into a long period of the church year called "Ordinary". It is called that because there are no great feasts or festivals during this time celebrated. Like much of our everyday lives, it is ordinary and yet, it is in the ordinary of things and how we deal with them that shape our character and who we really are.

Two-thirds of every year is spent just simply practicing what it means to be a Christian. Yet, as we go through those 2/3 of the year, how much do we really practice our service to God? How well do we follow Jesus? Are we praying on a regular basis? Do we take time to study scripture? How are we relating to others?

There will be National Holidays during Ordinary Time, most notably Independence Day and Labor Day. Between now and Advent, however, the only major religious holidays will be All Saints and Reign of Christ Sunday which comes just before Thanksgiving. Please remember that each Sunday, however, is celebrated as a remembrance of Jesus' Resurrection, a little Easter if you will, and a time to worship God for all he has given us.

Blessings,
Pastor Gail

OTHER NEWS

I would like to thank all those who contributed hymn suggestions this year. It seems we have more than usual. Of course there are duplications, but it still seems like more.

As you probably know by now, we did get a car in the parade. John Barrett had someone make up a sign which can be used for several years advertising the church and its services. Deacons ordered and paid for the candy bracelets which were thrown from the car. Lori made labels to attach to the packages and council attached the labels to the packages at the June 10 meeting. Many, many thanks. Emma Schmeirbach, John Barrett and Ron Geisel rode in the parade and threw candy.

One of the thoughts which keeps coming up in council and Deacons meetings is that of a Parish Nurse. While we would probably need to share a nurse with another church, there is a possibility of a grant from Local Church Ministries for Church revitalization which would help in the cost. For more information regarding what having a Parish Nurse entails Donna Putillo will be at our

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Greeter and Ushers for July and August

July 6 - Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner

July 13 & 20 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

July 27 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn

August 3 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten

August 10 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie, Tim Campbell

August 17 - Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman, David Barbee

August 24 - David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind

August 31 - Linda Jones, Lorrie Lehman, Dale & Sharon Reese



July Birthdays

Ruby Lehman	1
Kenny Bollmeier	5
Fred Lewis	11
Dale Reese	12
David Dressel	13
Larry Matzenbacher	18
Peggy Dierks	23
John Barrett	23
Nolan Cathcart	24
Janet Fauth	25
Craig Rahlfs	28

July Anniversaries

Mike & Debra Raban	11
Jay & Leslie Lehman	16
Leroy & Marlene Karsten	31



Comments from the Church Mouse



Sometimes I'm sorry that I can't venture far from the church. I really enjoyed watching the Marissa Coal Festival parade from the window of the old church office. It was good to see Friedens represented in the parade, almost as good as a few years ago when Irving Schickedanz was parade marshal and rode in Larry Matzenbacher's convertible with him.

The next day was the Father's Day Breakfast, and there were a few crumbs inadvertently dropped for me. Good food, good feelings, good fellows.

At Evangelical Daughters June meeting they had first-class food, but ice cream sundaes will not leave anything for a little mouse. Sandy Smith made some great no-bake cookies, but there were very few tidbits left for me. Come on ladies, think of me.

I can't wait for Community Vacation Bible School, July 7-11. Kids are sooooo good to me. I got a glimpse of the snack book when it was left out to be shown to Peggy Dierks and Ruby Lehman, and except for the freeze pops, it looks as if I'll be in crumb heaven.

This summer it looks as if we'll have a lot of favorite old hymns being sung during church service. I'll miss the choir, but I'll enjoy familiar hymns. I do like "In the Bulb, There is a Flower", but it can be sung just so many times. Although we've been promised patriotic hymns in early July, I vote for more peppy hymns. Unfortunately my vote doesn't count.

The kids at VBS will have some rocking tunes. Since I hide by the organ, I get to hear and see most of what goes on. It tickles my whiskers to see the kids learn some of the biblical stories and about the wonders of God. Go VBS!

Oh, I enjoyed the speaker on Hoyleton Ministries. They do so much.

Our church and its members do a lot, too, and we can always do more.

Christmas in August

Christmas in August will be held on Sunday, August 17. We are asking that if you have pictures of past Christmases you would like to share, please e-mail them or bring them into the office to be scanned. We would like to use these during the service. After that we reviewed the parts of the service.



Ministerial Moments Continued from page 1

next council meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:45 and then stop at 7:00 or whenever she gets here, to allow her to speak and answer questions. Please remember that our Council meetings, especially ones like this, are open to anyone who wishes to attend. I am hoping to schedule someone from the Church Revitalization Committee for our August or September meeting.

It seems that everyone who heard Chris Cox speak on June 8 enjoyed his message. I am told that our special offering that day was substantial. Of the primary conference missions, we still have not had a speaker from DuBois which I am hoping to get by next spring.

Along that train of thought, we have been blessed with word of another guess speaker coming on July 13. His name is Dale Fiedler and he is from the Church Wider Mission Task force. Our Church's Wider Mission is the one mission we budget for every year. I recently received a copy of the UCC Still Speaking magazine which is on the bureau in the foyer. Among the articles is a breakdown of where your OCWM dollars go. Other articles I found interesting were the UCC's help in disaster relief, the World Council of Churches, and help with Syrian refugees. Please feel free to borrow the magazine.

The Deacons and I have been looking over possible 12 step and support programs we can host. I have learned that AA meets once per week in the Township building and Al-Anon meets in New Athens. At the Family Care meeting Ron and I attended on May 29, we were told that Hoyleton may have a counselor who could do a seminar on diet, cancer support, or support group for caregivers. We can probably get a small grant from the Deaconess foundation for this if needed. My goal is to have some kind of support group started by September. John has also secured the possibility of transportation via the Macke Center Van on Sundays for children or others who want to come to church. Deacons have decided there will be a flyer that will go home with VBS students to let them know of this possibility and then there will be more flyers posted in August before school starts.

Spiritual Council also met and decided on the Christmas in Summer service. Council set the date August 17. We are asking that if you have pictures of past Christmases you would like to share, please e-mail them or bring them into the office to be scanned. We would like to use these during the service. After that we reviewed the parts of the service. Through the rest of the year we will be looking at the order of worship as well as items which may make the service more meaningful. If you visit another church on your travels this summer and particularly like their Order of Worship please give a copy to me, Linda Jones, Kay Trotter, Marlene Karsten, or Pete Dressel.

We are still hoping to find a date for an outside celebration in August. If you know anyone we can get for entertainment please let John or me know. Saturday would be ideal, but Sunday would be possible. We just want people to come and have a good time. We would like to have entertainment secured before we decide on whether to include an Ice Cream Social with it.

Ruby Lehman has retired from the Pastoral Relations committee after two terms. Marlene Karsten has taken her place. Other members of the Pastoral Relations committee are Carol Mercer and Sandy Smith. Anyone of these members can call a meeting if there is a concern. John Barrett will be trying to arrange a training with members of the conference this summer.

Carpeting has been ordered for the sanctuary, but I do not have an installation date as yet.

JULY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 8: Council Mtg: Donna Puppillo will be speaking to council about Parish Nurse program. Everyone is welcome to attend.	1	2	3 Independence Day	4 Independence Day	5	
6	7	8 Council Mtg - 6:45 pm	9	10	11	12
		Vacation Bible School all Week @ Friedens 9-11:30				
13	14 Pastor Gail leaves on vacation. She will be back on the 28th.	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	July 13: Region 8 potluck picnic at Biddleborn, 2 pm August 17: Christmas in August service	

Vacation Bible School - VBS ! ! ! !



Friedens is the host of this years VBS!!!

“Workshop of Wonders”

Dates: July 7 - 11

Times: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Contact Carol Mercer if you are interested in helping.



*Friedens United Church of Christ
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