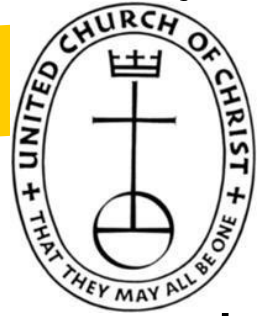


July/August
2015



The Tidings

Ministerial Moments

As I sit and write today, we are having the remnants of Tropical Storm Bill dump torrents of rain on us. It's a shame sometimes that one end of the country gets so much rain or snow they don't know what to do with it while another part of the country goes through drought. One would think with all the technology humans have created they would have figured out how to transport the wetness from the part of the country with too much to the part that needs it but hasn't. I remember in the 60s and early 70s there was talk of cloud seeding to create rain, but I never heard what happened to it. Maybe it didn't work.

The last time Duane was in church he said that they would be cutting wheat the next week. I hope the fields and crop got dry enough that they could do so. I am seeing a lot of wheat still in the fields

All this rain brings to mind the title of a Children's Day lectionary from several years ago: "The Ocean's so Big, and my Boat is so Small". This week, June 21, we will have the story of David and Goliath. In that story, David actually had some advantages in being smaller, because he could move faster and was not encumbered by heavy armor. For so long we have measured a church's viability by its numbers and yet there are large churches which still cannot pay their bills and there are small churches with no reason to grow or look for solutions because someone left them a large bequest so they don't need to relate to the community.

We have the strength of being a family church, but a family church can also be a deficit because new people feel they don't fit in no matter how much you may try to make them feel comfortable. We have two very good Sunday school teachers, but at least one of them has been asking for an occasional break for some time.

We do have some youth. Riley went to DuBois this year. We could have up to 4 in confirmation, which if the class is that large will be the largest since I've been here. Sonshine Corner continues to be a viable mission, giving back to the community in more ways than one. Finally, we have a very active Ministerial Alliance in town. Most of my colleagues state that the churches in their communities do not work together as well as we do in ours.

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July Birthdays

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



August Anniversaries

Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher	1
Tim & Melissa Curry	5
David & Pete Dressel	15
John & Alice Childers	16
Ron & Gail Geisel	22
John & Janet Fauth	30

July Anniversaries

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

August Birthdays

Dixie Ferrell	1
Martin Galle	3
Carol Mercer	4
Alan Oyler	4
John Childers	5
Neal Galle	8
Tari Carpenter	9
Ann Peters	10
Gene Bollmeier	14
Lorrie Lehman	14
Nancy Barbee	14
Grant Duffie	14
Irene Triefenbach	15
Isabella Schmidt	20
Sheryl Jones	20
Dave Barbee	23
Ty Duffie	26
Victoria Galle	27
Debra Raban	28
Jean Riess	29
Andrew Stuart	30
Gina White	31
Warren Trotter	31

Comments from the Church



I'm really glad that my church home is air conditioned. It's hot outside. If it were that hot in here, I couldn't think well enough to type this on Lori's computer. But my eyes and ears still work pretty well.

On Father's Day, June 21st, the talented Pastor Gail sang "My Father's Eyes" as the special music for the worship service. I wonder if anyone ever thought to compose a poem or a song about a mouse's wonderful ears? I don't think so.

Well, let me tell you some of the things this little mouse heard and saw recently. Most Sundays John Barrett or Ron Geisel rings the bell for the start of worship. Often one or the other is assisted by a kid who likes to feel the bell rope pulling him up off his feet. Other men have rung the bell, but many who sit in the congregation aren't aware that someone has to "manually" ring the big bell.

Another thing most folks aren't aware of is that occasionally people in the community do nice things for our church. I heard that Bev and Alvis Murray of Marissa Antique Station often donate money toward our building fund, and they don't even live in Marissa or attend church here.

Most of our members know of the Community Garden, but I bet many do not know how much time and energy our pastor and her husband have put into the project. I'm impressed.

The American Red Cross Blood Drive was June 22 and the next one will be August 17th. A nice lady from the Red Cross listened to our church liaison, and has worked out a schedule so donors can give here every other month. I'm selfishly pleased because there are always nice crumbs left for me. Besides, I know it is a good thing for our community, and it helps make Friedens look respectable (which we are).

Did you know that the quilters still get together to quilt and now use the room across from the church office? Marlene Karstens started a good project. I have climbed up the quilting frame and seen the most recent efforts, but my perspective is off – still it looks beautiful.

I also heard that we had some children from here attend the Community Vacation Bible School held this year at First Baptist from June 15-19. I think I understood that it was Skyler, Nathan and Ellie. I know that Riley went to Camp Du Bois and liked it. Rock on youth!

I enjoyed the kids at VBS. They were fun when they were here, and I miss them and the tidbits they left at snack time.....for me.

Which reminds me, my big ears heard talk of a TWIGS free lunch program. Our church needs to pick a day to send volunteers to help distribute lunch bags to kids for the free lunch plan. I heard Lesley Lehman volunteer after church but didn't know which day. Maybe she or someone will take me to the library if they are giving away food. I always like food.

I also really like my church home, and I do like it during the summer when some favorite hymns are sung. Some my grandfather used to sing to me in his squeaky old voice. Now, if only one was about wonderful mouse ears. Oh, well, I can dream.

Ministerial Moments Continued

When we look back on how many people used to be in church on Sunday morning it is discouraging. When we look to other larger churches, it can be discouraging, but the face of Christianity, even the face of the United Church of Christ, is changing. It is easy to see ourselves as so small we get overwhelmed, but we can also see our smallness as a chance to do something new, something different; maybe 5 smooth stones rather than a sword and armor.

Blessings

Pastor Gail

125th Anniversary of Friedens

125th Anniversary

2016 is the 125th Anniversary of Friedens UCC. While not as big a marker in the existence of a church as the 100th, it is still a milestone. Curt Werner graciously agreed last year to help get the history together. At Annual meeting, David Schneidewind, Duane Waeltz and Kevin McDonald agreed to be on the committee. The committee met June 13, while I don't know everything they spoke about I know a few and have some suggestions :

1. You did a history for the 100th. We do not need to re-invent the wheel, but it might be nice to collect stories that people have about the church and do a "self-published" booklet of those stories. Some stories could be about the building of the current sanctuary, adding the elevator, building the parsonage, the kitchen band, various weddings, potlucks and other get-togethers including the 100th anniversary. Lori Selman has given me the addresses of Rev. Schmidt, Rev. Astin, and Rev. Benson, so I can ask them and their families if they have any stories also. As so many of Rev. Schmidt's children grew up here, I'm sure they have a lot of stories.
2. I know there are photo albums somewhere in the church as we have had them out for a few rally days when I first got here. If you know where they are please let Curt know. The same goes for some films or slides which were found a few years ago. I didn't see them, but I know they surfaced and I don't know where they are. We can put those on discs and show them as a power point some time during the year.

If you have any pictures at home you would like to share please bring them in. Mark your name on the back so we can get them back to you. The committee has provided manila envelopes for you to put your pictures in. Please put your name of the envelope so you get it back. We will put the pictures on some kind of DVD so we can show them during the year.

Ron recently bought a small trailer. I would like to suggest that next fall we approach the Art class regarding having a contest among the students to make a sign celebrating our 125th year for the front lawn. This sign would be like the ones the Art class made for the village which go up at various holidays. We would have to pay for supplies unless someone donates them. My thought would then be that after the sign had been up for several months, it could take part in the Coal Fest Parade and our special celebration would be the Sunday after Coal Fest as this seems to be a time when a lot of people come into town for family reunions.

As stated, these are all suggestions subject to the decision of the 125th Anniversary Committee. Marissa's 150th anniversary is in 2017, so we may find things we can add to the History museum as it gets rebuilt.

JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study - Grief	2 7 pm - Spiritual Council Mtg	3	4 Independence Day
5 Independence Day Sunday Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Open House Cedarhurst at Sparta 1-3 pm	13 Pastor Gail's vacation starts, back on the 20th	14 Council Mtg - 6:45 pm	15	16	17	18
19 Guest: Ken Treveer	20 Pastor Gail back from Vacation	21	22	23	24	25 Chamber Golf Tournament
26	27 Faith Baptist VBS	28 Faith Baptist VBS	29 Faith Baptist VBS	30 Faith Baptist VBS	31 Faith Baptist VBS	

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	* Marissa School's Back to School Registration event held at the Jr./Sr. High school from 9 am to Noon.				1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Christmas in August Sunday	10	11 Council Mtg 7:00 pm Marissa School Registration *	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 TWIGS ends	22
23	24 Marissa Schools start back up.	25	26	27	28	29

Greeter and Ushers for July and August

July 5 - Mandi Schmeirbach, Carol Mercer, Curt Werner

July 12 & 19 - Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn

July 26 - Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn

August 2 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Leroy & Marlene Karsten

August 9 - Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbi Duffie, Tim Campbell

August 16 - Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman, David Barbee

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

August 30 - Linda Jones, Lorrie Lehman, Dale & Sharon Reese



TWIGS

TWIGS has asked that we collect codes from the inside of Kellogg products. The outside of the boxes containing the codes are marked Kellogg Family Rewards. The code is printed on the inside on the cardboard. Other than cereal, Kellogg brands carrying the codes are Keebler products, Pop Tarts, Famous Amos, Chips Deluxe, Cones, Morning Star, Vienna Fingers, Pringles, etc. More brands are shown on the collection box which is in the lobby.

twigs

Vacation Bible School News

Quite a few of our children attended Vacation Bible School and appeared to have a good time. The theme was the wonderful world of water and as it rained most every day, I would say they learned a lot about it. TWIGS also took lunches to 1st Baptist Tues. – Thurs. Friday, the children got a hot dog lunch after their closing worship. Many thanks to the other churches and all the volunteers.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

As I write this I am glad to say that our first lettuce is getting ready to harvest. The garden looks good thank to all the rain and not too weedy. Squash is blossoming and some tomatoes are beginning to form. It won't be long now before the food pantry begins to see some vegetables.

Sunday July 19th - Ken Treveer

Sunday, July 19th we will have an "Old Fashion Hymn Sing" during our 10am worship service. The hymn sing will be led by singer and guitar player extraordinaire, Ken Treveer. Ken will sing for us, and with us during this hour of worship. Come join us and bring your friends Sunday, July 19th we will have an "Old Fashion Hymn Sing" during our 10am worship service. The hymn sing will be led by singer and guitar player extraordinaire, Ken Treveer. Ken will sing for us, and with us during this hour of worship. Come join us and bring your friends Sunday, July 19th we will have an "Old Fashion Hymn Sing" during our 10am worship service. The hymn sing will be led by singer and guitar player extraordinaire, Ken Treveer. Ken will sing for us, and with us during this hour of worship. Come join us and bring your friends



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