



The Tidings

March 2016

Ministerial Moments

We are now in the middle of Lent. Some of you may have given up something for Lent, some of you may be working on more Spiritual matters, such as increasing your prayer life, meditating, Bible Study, etc. The celebration of Lent began around the 4th century as a time to prepare for baptism or, for those who had fallen away from the church, to become reconciled to the church and to God. For many of us Lent is a time of reflection. How might we turn ourselves back to Christ? Might we be more loving, more trusting, more hopeful, more generous, more courageous, more humble, or even, find ways to be more joyful in the Lord? Is there an anger or grudge we can let go of? Can we be more forgiving? Can we let go of anxieties and trust in God? These are all things God calls us to do, even though many times they are not easy.

The confirmation class and I are watching the DVD study called The Journey by David Hamilton. Rev. Hamilton is minister to a large church in Kansas City. The Journey takes us to places in Israel and Jordan where Jesus walked and shows us what the communities would have looked like it. The first week included the Baptism and Wilderness Temptations of Jesus which led to discussion about how Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River and other forms of baptism besides the form we commonly do in Friedens.

The second part of our Lenten Study is How to Pray. The Sunday Adult class is doing this curriculum also and it is the same study as I did with the Thurs. afternoon Bible Study last fall. It will cover several different types of prayer. I found it very helpful in getting me out of my comfort zone last fall as it got me to try other methods of praying and open my mind to other practices.

The Thurs. afternoon Bible Study began again Thurs. Feb. 25. We meet at 4:30PM and may be joined by anyone at any time. Our newest study is titled, for lack of a better term, Bible 101. It will first give an overview as to how the Bible was written and organized and from there will help us look at ways to study the Bible. After that, it will be up to the group as to whether they want to study specific books of the Bible or if they have a theme they would like to study. Everyone is welcome to join one of our Bible Studies.

Blessing,

Pastor Gail

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> > > **Wurstmarkt - March 19th** < < <

You know it's almost Spring when you see the pink pig in the front lawn of the church in late February. Yes it's that time again. Wurstmarkt Time!!! **Saturday, March 19 - 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.** I'm sure that Funds and Fellowship could use as much help as they can get and all the pies you can make.

See the sign up list or call Susan Olyer (3324) or Bobbi Duffie (3489) to find out where help is most needed. They are in need of potato peelers on Saturday morning starting at 8:00 am, also need help cleaning up around 7:00 pm.

Saturday, March 19 - 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

March Birthdays

Curtis Werner	5
Milton Dressel	7
Calvin Fruth	9
Dorothy Dressel	10
Ruth Erb	12
Clinton Galle	13
"Mike" Archie Dierks	13
Mervin Erb	15
Mindy Fitch	18
Alberta Galle	20
Brian Matzenbacher	23
Paul Weilmuenster	25
Caroline Galle	26
Charlie Raban	28
Timothy Campbell	31

March Anniversaries

Dennis & Nicole Sinn	10
Bill & Carol Gladson	15
Warren & Kay Trotter	21



One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of the UCC 5 for 5 offerings. This year it will be collected on March 6. Seven denominations take part in One Great Hour of Sharing, the American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Disciples of Christ, Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), the UCC, and Church World Service for the purpose of developing common promotional material, sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings.

Almost 60% of the UCC's OGHS offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for missionaries. Currently there are 4 OGHS supported missionaries and 2 Global Mission Interns working in disaster relief, health care, education, sustainable agriculture development and refugee support. The offering also funds disaster preparedness and response, and disaster related volunteer initiatives in the U.S.

The UCC currently is responding to development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries and provides disaster relief and immigration assistance in the United States. In 2014, the OGHS offering received just over \$2.2 million. On average, of every dollar given to OGHS, 92 cents is used directly for mission programming, 6.5 cents for interpretation materials and 1 cent for administrative costs and .5 cents for program monitoring and evaluation.

Currently the OGHS Program Committee of the Wider Church Ministries Board meets semi-annually to review expenditures and to address initiatives to increase the promotion of the offering. In addition, a leadership committee is in place that reviews grant requests for special projects internationally.

Please, as you consider this offering, remember that it is the UCC's prime disaster response fund.

Congratulations Lea & John

As by now, you probably know Lea Scruggs-Parker and John Barrett were married on Sunday Feb. 14. When John first came to me about the wedding, he asked if I had ever done a wedding after a regular service. I hadn't, but I had seen it done.

Then on January 17, in the lectionary the scripture John 2: 1-11 was suggested. This is the wedding at Cana and I mentioned to John this would be good for the day of the wedding. On January 31, a lectionary scriptures was 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 and that cemented my choices for the scriptures of the main service before the wedding. John had previously found a $\frac{3}{4}$ time setting for "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" and had requested that the congregation sing it during the regular service. Because the melody was not one familiar to most of you, we placed it as the middle hymn in the service.

From there, everything in the first service was planned to go around the theme of love and marriage. Lea and John put together most of the actual wedding service. John had something to do with the translation and making the lyric of the solo Larry sang scan well also.

We did have a slight break between services during which I was glad to see everyone get up and greet our guests of which there were many. Lea's family spent most of Saturday, Feb. 13 decorating Fellowship Hall. Several people said they had never seen it look like that.

To top it off, Carol Mercer took a picture of the couple and wrote a lovely column about the wedding which made the front page of the County Journal. Again, congratulations Lea & John!

2016 Church Council

NEW OFFICERS

President - David Schneidewind **Vice President** - Curt Werner

Secretary - Dwayne Waeltz

Fruth Rental: Curt Werner

Financial Secretaries: Susie Stewart & Pete Dressel

Elders: Susie Stewart, Ruby Lehman

Deacons: Kathy Matzenbacher, Curt Werner, Pete Dressel

Trustees: David Barbee, David Schneidewind, Dwayne Waeltz

MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00 pm Lenten Service @ Holy Ghost Darmstadt Choir after	3	4 World Day of Prayer - Church will be open	5
	Saturday April 2 1-3PM New Ba- den – meet & greet for Rev. Shana Johnson, our new confer- ence minister.	8 Council Mtg. 7 pm	9 7:00 pm Lenten Service @ Friedens Choir after	10	11	12 Pancake Break- fast @ St. Pe- ter's Lenzburg
6 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	7 Evangelical Daughters Mtg 6:30 pm	15	16 7:00 pm Lenten Service @ Methodist Choir after	17	18	19 Wurstmarkt
13 Funds & Fellowship Biscuits and Gravy Break- fast	14					
20 Palm Sunday	21	22	23	24 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday	25	26
27 Easter Sunrise Ser- vice @ Meth- odist 7 am	28	29	30	31	Other dates to remember 125 th Anniversary June 12 th VBS June 13-17 6-8PM with optional supper at 5:30PM	

Greeters and Ushers 2016 - 2017

March 2016 through August 2017

** It is very important that if for some reason you can not make your scheduled week(s), please find a replacement or contact a church council member. If your name does not appear on this list, please contact a church council member to report the oversight. Thank you!

Date	Ushers and Greeters
March	6 Donna Galle, Ruth Erb, Kevin McDonald
	13 Ruby Lehman, Susan Oyler
	20 Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, Ron Geisel
	27 Easter - Council Members
April	3 Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter
	10 Sandy Smith, Lorrie Lehman, Ron Geisel
	17 Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Dale Sinn
	24 Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Kevin McDonald
May	1 Linda Jones, Tim Campbell
	8 Evangelical Daughters
	15 Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Curt Werner
	22 Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb
	29 Ruby Lehman, Todd Erb, Ruth Erb
June	5 Dave & Pete Dressel, Carol Gladson
	12 Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher, Carol Gladson
	19 David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
	26 Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett
July	3 Carol Mercer, Curt Werner, John Barrett
	10 Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
	17 Bobbi Duffie, Jean Riess, Dale Sinn
	24 Jay & Leslie Lehman, Dennis & Nicole Sinn, David Barbee
	31 Mike & Peggy Dierks, Marlene Karsten
August	7 Mike & Peggy Dierks, Bobbie Duffie, Tim Campbell
	14 Kevin McDonald, Ruby Lehman, David Barbee
	21 David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
	28 Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Neal Galle, Donna Galle

Greeters and Ushers 2016 - 2017

September 2016 through February 2017

** It is very important that if for some reason you can not make your scheduled week(s), please find a replacement or contact a church council member. If your name does not appear on this list, please contact a church council member to report the oversight. Thank you!

Date	Ushers and Greeters
September	4 Ryan & Crystal Cathcart
	11 Carol Mercer, Susie Stewart, Sunday School
	18 David & Evelyn Schneidewind, David & Mindy Schneidewind
	25 Karla Hellsten, Ron Geisel, Mandi Schmierbach
October	2 Sandy Smith, Mandi Schmierbach
	9 Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter
	16 Dave & Pete Dressel, Linda Jones
	23 Carol Gladson, Susan Oyler, Carla Hellsten
	30 Jay & Leslie Lehman
November	6 John & Janet Fauth
	13 Pete Dressel, Ron Geisel
	20 Susan Oyler, Kathleen Robert, Linda Jones
	27 Ryan & Crystal Cathcart and Family
December	4 Gene & Betty Bollmeier, Linda Jones
	11 Jay & Leslie Lehman, Lorrie Lehman, Neal Galle
	18 Dave & Pete Dressel, Duane Waeltz
	24 Christmas Eve - Council Members
	25 Ruby Lehman, Larry & Kathy Matzenbacher
January	1 Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith
	8 Marlene Karsten, Sandy Smith
	15 John & Janet Fauth
	22 John & Janet Fauth
	29 Tim Campbell, Duane Waeltz
February	5 Gary & Susie Stewart, Ron Geisel
	12 Gary & Susie Stewart, Mandy Schmierbach and Family
	19 Mandi Schmierbach & Family
	26 Kay Trotter, Mike Trotter

Comments from the Church Mouse



We have such helpful people at Friedens. Just ask Marlene Karstens when she is putting together a funeral luncheon. She has ladies such as Ruby Lehman, Peggy Dierks, Donna Galle, Sandy Smith, and Kathy Matzenbacher making dishes and helping in the kitchen. It's amazing all the ladies who help - and on short notice.

As a little church mouse I see and hear quite a lot. The other evening I saw Ron Geisel setting up for a dart ball practice all by himself. He moved tables and chairs, got the darts from storage, put the big target in place, got out, set up and adjusted the light poles and the lights. It was quite a bit of work, which he did quickly and efficiently. I know he also walked several blocks in the January 31st snow to open the frozen car door of a Sunday School teacher. He's a helper.

At the January Red Cross Blood Drive I saw Lorrie Lehman and Sandy Smith volunteer as helpers to relieve Carol Mercer who had to be at the Marissa Library's Book Club for an hour or so. Pastor Gail was already at the library as a mentor. Lorrie and Sandy and Blanche Schmierbach have helped before at the blood drives. The next one at Friedens is May 9th. In March the drive will be at the high school.

The helpful people in Funds and Fellowship are planning some neat things even before the March 19th Wurstmarkt. On February 28th they will be sponsoring a trip to Pioneer Cabin after church. There will be good food, served family style. (*wish I could go*) Then on Sunday morning March 13th Funds and Fellowship will have a church breakfast featuring biscuits and gravy. Good crumbs for me. Yummy! Yea!

The February 6th Woman's Pre-Lent Breakfast was well attended, and I sure enjoyed bits of the hot cross buns that are a tradition at the breakfast. Susie Stewart, Evangelical Daughter's president, the other Daughters, and the ladies who attended seemed pleased with the event and were more prepared for the season of Lent.

Last month I also enjoyed the Daughters' meeting and loved John and Lea's wedding on Feb. 14 for the great food supply. Cheese bits, rolls, and pieces of veggies. Oh, my, I secured some nice tidbits for my hiding places.

I enjoyed the wedding, too, and my favorite part was Larry Matzenbacher singing that lovely song. My hidey-hole by the organ served me well. I think another favorite thing about the wedding day was seeing the pews pretty full. That was a good feeling.

Fellowship Hall looked quite festive as a Valentine's Day party room. There was so much activity beforehand that I hid upstairs while Lea's daughters decorated up a storm.

Oh, someone left a Feb. 18th County Journal newspaper on the table, and I saw the romantic story of Lea and John Barrett on page one, complete with a picture by Carol, our own little reporter.

Now I look forward to the Wurstmarkt of March 19th. I love this church, its food, and, of course, its helpful people.

Order Form for Easter Lilies - Due March 13

Name of person ordering

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____

Memory or Honor of _____



Number of lilies ordered _____ X \$10.00 each

= Total Amount Due: _____

Money or check may be attached to this form and dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Orders MUST be in by March 13th..



Friedens United Church of Christ
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