

NOVEMBER 2021

THE VOICE

Official Newsletter of
Friedens United Church of Christ



Thanks-Giving and Advent

We have so much to be thankful for as a church family. The pandemic has provided many challenges and yet we have many opportunities to connect as church family this month and this is so important! Look inside to see what all is being planned and let us know if you need a ride to an event. Then, as we enter the Advent season, let's explore how our church can become a house where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance, and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? We will study the biblical prophets and see how they call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.





Worship in November!

November 7th - Worship with Holy Communion and a focus on Veterans.

November 14th - Stewardship Sunday Worship

November 21st - Thanksgiving Sunday Worship with a special presentation from our Confirmands.

November 28th - First Sunday of Advent: Hope; The Inn: Housing the Holy series begins. We will create Advent "Wreaths" in worship and the Cazier's will offer a mission moment then tell us more after worship; We are hoping volunteers will deliver Advent Wreaths to those that are homebound.



**A prayer for you
to consider
sharing
around your
table
this
Thanksgiving.**

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious and Loving God,
we present to you our
hearts full of gratitude on
this Thanksgiving Day. We
are grateful for your gifts
to us which are beyond
measure. We pray for those
who have less and need
more. But most of all, we
pray for the grace to be
grateful and to never take
you or your gifts to us for
granted. Amen.



Sister Barbara Jean Donovan

A handwritten note on a light purple background that says "Thank you!" in black cursive, with a red heart drawn above the word "you".

Thank you!

Dear ones,

What a adventure these past couple of months have brought! An amazing educational trip to Denver with our team to Marcia McFee's Worship Design workshop...where we came together as a team to plan and enhance our upcoming year of worship experiences alongside of some wonderful adventures in nature as we built stronger bonds and developed friendships between us.

Jasen and I feel so grateful for your grace that allowed us to travel and celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. Myself and my family are so incredibly humbled at the outpouring of support and love that you showered upon us as the pandemic pressed our Installation service and celebration to be postponed...and then again when Gracelynn needed hand surgery to fix an injury that impacts her career and livelihood. I'd be remiss if I did not also express my thanks for the thoughtful gifts and treasures that you have given to show your appreciation as I serve God and all of you.

Serving God and God's church for the past 12 years is something that has brought so many blessings to us and our lives...but very few as rich and a deep as the blessings and genuine love that you all pour out; not only to our family but upon each other. You are all shining lights in God's kin-dom here on earth...and I am eternally grateful, humbled and thankful to journey alongside you as a part of this beloved community and as your pastor.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Tarrah



Friedens UCC,
 Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the Worship Design Studio workshop in Denver. It was wonderful to gather as a team to plan for our liturgical year.

Forever blessed beyond measure to serve this awesome congregation.

Love,
 Janet

THANK
 YOU

Dear Council and Friedens, I knew a lot went into worship planning but until I experienced the worship planning retreat in Denver I really had no idea! Thank you for the opportunity to learn and build stronger bonds through this experience. I am honored and grateful.

Lindsay



Peace Camp is back for the 2021-2022 school year with the students from Irvington Grade School! November 8th is the date this month. Volunteers needed at noon.

IT'S FALL Y'ALL!



All Age Outing to Pheasant Hollow Winery on Sunday, November 7th

**This is a family friendly outdoor site with fire pit
and outdoor games for all ages. We will take van
and carpool after church. Can pack a picnic lunch.
Wine/Beer on site. We will bring lemonade and
water for the kids.**

Sign up with Peggy or at church.



IT'S FALL Y'ALL!



Wanna have lunch in a castle and travel less than 20 minutes? Me too!! Join the "Lunch Bunch" on Friday, November 5th at Castle Ridge in Centralia for some delish food, fantastic drinks and amazing fellowship! Sign-up at church or with Betty Reuter.

Newsletter Challenge!
Tell Pastor Tarrah what the angel had to wear until his "real wings came in" for a special prize!





HELLO
my name is

Rae Ann Kniffen



- Rae Ann was born in Missouri and has lived in Southern Illinois during her adult life.
- She currently lives in Mt.Vernon
- Rae Ann is retired and worked for 40 years in the banking industry.
- She has 1 older brother, 2 sons that live in Mt. Vernon (Wes & Derek), and 3 grandchildren (McKinley, Emersyn & Drake).
- Rae Ann loves spending time in nature and working in her flower gardens, caring for her yard and the many different birds that visit her feeders.
- Why Friedens? "Pastor Stacy is why I come to Friedens. When I moved back to Mt. Vernon the church I went to wasn't the same; people had moved, passed away or left the church because of decline. I had been to a couple of Pastor Stacy's funerals and decided to check out Friedens. The people are great, very welcoming, the pastors are great and I like it very much!"
- Something that Rae Ann would like you to know about her is that she is a quiet person that likes to have time to warm-up to people so she can feel comfortable and open-up.

It was my pleasure to visit with Gale Koelling and his wife Pat today. They welcomed me into their home for the interview.

HELLO
my name is

**Gale
Koelling**



Gale is a life long resident of the rural Irvington area community. He and Pat have two daughters, Laura and Mary, living in the O'Fallon, IL area. Also, one grandson Maxwell. Gale has a sister, Sharon Lemos. She resides in Texas.

Gale was a life long farmer, 42 years to be exact. He's been a member of the Washington County Farm Bureau for 22 years and the longest serving President which is 18 years. He enjoys serving and has attended conventions in Hawaii, Texas, Chicago as well as other destinations through the years. Gale holds a teaching certificate and taught and also subbed in his early years.

When asked, "Why Friedens", he replied, "I grew up there". Gale enjoys football and sports in general. He likes volunteering. He also stated he's quiet and an introvert.

Gale has worked the food pantry, served on Church Council, Cemetery Board, and was a Choir member. (Just a side note from the interviewer, Jan Tiemann, Gale has a beautiful voice – I personally miss hearing him sing.) Gale misses fellowship after church, in the Gathering Room or outside. Thank you Gale and Pat for making time for me. God Bless!



Won't you be his neighbor?

The time will quickly be upon us to gather and deliver gifts for this precious Child of God at Kindercottage. He sends us this greeting:

"Hello! My name is Carterious Guyton. I am a very special boy at Uni Pres Kindercottage. I am 12 years old. I love to run and play with cars. Sometimes my size varies because of my age, but as of now my clothes sizes are 18/20 and my shoe size is 7, and my underwear size is 18/20. My Christmas wish is to receive things just for me.

Thanking you in advance,
Carterious Guyton

We are encouraged to shop for toys, clothing, shoes and educational items. Please bring your WRAPPED gift(s) to church between Dec. 1st & Dec. 12th for Carterious so we can deliver them in time for Christmas!



"Footprints"

"Footprints" is what we call our time with our youngest children to learn about God and the love of Jesus.

"Direct my footsteps according to Your Word." – Psalm 119:133

This time is held immediately following worship (11 am) in the children's classroom in the educational wing. Look for the footsteps leading to the room!!

Kids will only be meeting on Nov. 14th this month due to special events.

Stephanie and Jordan are teachers.

Confirmation

Confirmands are encouraged to join their mentors for the church outing on Nov. 7th. On the 13th they will meet at the church at 7 a.m. to deliver the Welcome Backpacks to CWS office in Elkhart, IN. On the 14th they will meet with Pastor Tarrah after worship. Nov. 21st we will all decorate the church for Advent and on Nov. 28th we will meet with the Caziers after worship.

Adult Spiritual Formation

During November and December Lindsay Helpingstine will be leading a conversation on identifying and using our Spiritual Gifts. This small group meets after worship although there are many church events this month. This small group will meet on Nov. 14th to take a spiritual gift assessment and will gather with the church for the special events going on the 7th, 21st and 28th, In December we will delve deeper into where our spiritual gifts may take us deeper in the life and ministry of the church.

Men

We would like to encourage the men of the church to gather on Nov. 14 after worship to help us make soup for the pantry!

Classes will only meet on November 14 due to all the wonderful church fellowship opportunities this month!!



(Tri-County Electric presented the Food Pantry with a proceeds check from their Mascot Pecan sale.)

Our next Food Fair, in partnership with the St. Louis Food Bank, will be held on Monday, November 22nd, from 10am-12pm. Volunteers will be needed at 8:30 a.m. to help with set-up, to help distribute food from 10am-12pm, and to assist with clean-up from 12pm-1pm.



Our October Food Fair served 86 families. How amazing is that?!? Our goal for the month of November is 100 families and the food will be distributed the Monday prior to Thanksgiving. Please prayerfully consider joining us for this wonderful ministry event!





Irvington UCC Food Pantry Proxy Request

To help us fulfill our mission of helping to feed those hungry in Washington County, the Irvington UCC Food Pantry asks YOU to help those in Washington County who are unable to go to the food pantry in Irvington to pick up food. A simple proxy form can be completed by the person needing food (the recipient) designating another as their delivery person.

On a Sat or Sun food distribution day, the delivery person comes to Irvington Food Pantry & presents the proxy form (signed by both recipient and the delivery person) to the volunteer worker. Then the food is loaded into the delivery person's vehicle to take to the recipient.

To receive USDA food, recipients monthly gross income cannot exceed the State of Illinois Department of Human guidelines (\$2,658 for a fam of 1, \$4,039 for a fam of 4, for example.) If over guideline, donated food will be provided.

Proxy forms are available from our church's representative, Sonya Germann, or are available in church office. A new form must be completed each time food is delivered. Please consider helping those in need of food through a proxy delivery.