



The Transformer

July 2018

717-866-4910

Friedens Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope these summer days find you basking in God's gifts of grace and peace.

For Cheri and me, July starts out with more special family time. On the 2nd our oldest son arrived from Omaha with the three grandchildren. He and Ashlyn made the return trip on the 5th, but the boys will spend a week (most of it in the pool) with grandma and grandpa. Also arriving on the 2nd was son Gregg who was able to work a short visit into a business trip he made to the East coast. Gregg, whom we visited in Spain, now resides in San Francisco with Katie and their pup.

On the 4th we all went to the home of Cheri's folks in Hockessin, DE. (outside Wilmington and just tucked inside the Delaware boarder). This annual event gathers Cheri's siblings and extended relatives for a day of delicious picnic food, non-stop conversation, and much laughter. Having our grandchildren attend provided a wonderful array of love passed through the generations.

MR. ROGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD

When Matt our oldest was one of the "little ones," his favorite program on television was Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. Almost daily he would join thousands of kiddos across the nation who heard Mr. Roger's sing "Won't You Be My Neighbor" as he went to the closet, put on his cardigan sweater, and changed his shoes.

Now playing in movie theaters in our area is a documentary about the life of Fred Rogers and how his daily program depicted the core values of this gentle man who wanted children to grow up knowing, "I like you just the way you are... it is good to be good, and nice to be nice," along with the many other obvious and not so obvious life lessons.

One writer reviewing the movie commented, "There's nothing obviously moving here, and yet the audience is moved: sniffing, wiping the moisture from their cheeks. The power is in Rogers's radical kindness at a time when public kindness is scarce. It's as if the pressure of living in a time such as ours gets released in that theater as we're reminded that, oh yes, that's how people can be."

As an ordained Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers, understood how God created humans to love one another as God loved each of them. Without being preachy, he taught the practice of Christian behavior during those thirty years of broadcasts. He understood those principles we delved into during our four-week study of Romans chapter twelve.

One - Instead of yielding to the world's behavior, we accept the invitation to present ourselves to God.

(Continued next page)

Two - Instead of using our gifts and abilities for self-aggrandizement, we apply ourselves and the blessings we've received to the betterment and well-being of other people.

Three - Instead of showing care only when convenient, we practice a love that is authentic. This includes such nitty-gritty practices such as:

Doing what is good;

Honoring other persons;

Practicing hospitality to strangers

Blessing those who harass us;

Rejoicing in hope; Persevering during trouble; Persisting in prayer.

Four - Instead of dividing people according to levels of acceptance, we consider everyone as equal, and try to live in harmony with all.

Truly looking at my life "as is," and reviewing the legacy of things I've said and done according to the norms of self-interest, my honest response to Romans twelve is questioning whether it is possible to live the way Paul depicted. Yet, as Jesus told his skeptical disciples, "All things are possible for God" (Mark 10:27). And that is why the practice of love as everyday behavior *begins with, presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God...* (Romans 12:1, CEB).

Reflecting upon the movie, "Won't You Be My Neighbor," and noting the divisions presently tearing the moral fabric of America, commentator David Brooks implores, "*Rogers was singing from a song sheet now lost, a song sheet that once joined conservative evangelicals and secular progressives. The song sheet may be stacked somewhere in a drawer in the national attic, ready for reuse once again.*"

TABLE TALK

I believe the song sheet from which Fred Rogers sang, is meant to provide Friedens with both tune and tone for our mission and ministry. And I really would like to join with you to reflect upon and talk about our best understanding of the good work God is giving us to accomplish.

Please set aside either the evening of July 26 or August 16 to gather with fellow congregants between 6:30 and 8:30 in the social hall for dessert and Table Talk. Yes, discerning God's will TOGETHER is that important. Thank You.

God bless you with eyes to see the divine handprint upon both the world around us and the people you meet.

Together in Christ,

Pastor W.





Food Collection

On Sunday, July 1, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for frozen hams, canned meats and stews, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned soups, peanut butter, jelly, towels/wash cloths, paper towels, toilet paper, facial tissues, and reusable plastic containers, twin sheets, T-shirts, socks and underwear.



Time for thinking about the Church Picnic.

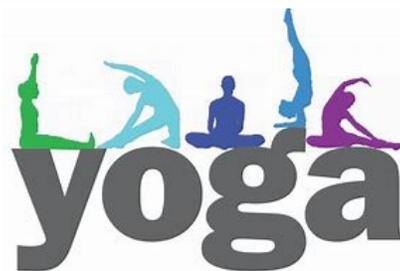
Date: August 26th after church

Come and have fun with games and fellowship and lots of food!

Watch for sign-up sheets!

Have any questions see or call:
 Carol Achenbach — 610-589-5863
 Denise Noll — 717-269-2817
 Kathy Hoover — 717-866-5461

Hope to see everyone at the picnic for a fun afternoon!



YOGA CLASSES – WOMEN’S & CO-ED –Scott Gilbert is honored to continue teaching at Friedens. He is offering Women’s and Co-Ed yoga classes.

***Women’s Classes** will begin every **Monday** from 6:18/18 – 12/17/18 **(No classes) 12/24 & 12/31**

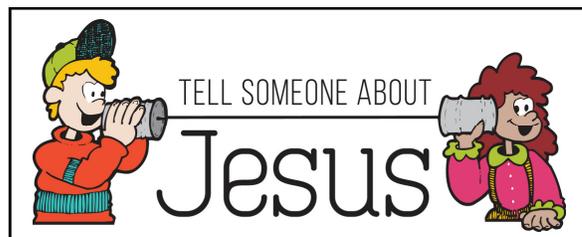
***Co-Ed Classes** will begin every **Wednesday** from 6/27/18 – 12/19/18 **(No class) Wednesday 12/26**

Classes for 2019 will be announced prior to end of year.

Class will take place from 5:45-7:00 PM (come early to set up when possible @ 5:30)

Class cost is \$12.00 per class or (a single purchase of 5 classes at a time can be made for \$50.00 with punch card)

For those in financial hardship, class cost will be waived, please call or email in advance. It is more important that you experience this opportunity. Please bring your own yoga mat & small blanket. Scott will have approximately 10 mats, if needed. Inquiries can be addressed by calling Scott @610-750-1707 or emailing at sgilbert50@verizon.net



JULY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 PM—10:45 Worship Group</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service 6-8 PM—Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class 6-8 PM—Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>10</p> <p>1 PM—Life Group 6-8 PM—Vacation Bible School 7 PM—Property Committee</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 1:00 PM—Life Group 5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6-8 PM—VBS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 PM—Life Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service 7 PM—Table Talk</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class 6:30 PM—Finance Committee Hopes Homeless Shelter—(16-29)</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7 PM—Vision to Mission</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:45 PM—Co-Ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7 PM—Ministry Coordination</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9 AM—Women Sew 5:45 PM—Co-ed Yoga Class 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:30 pm—Table Talk</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:45 AM—Traditional Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:45 PM—Women's Yoga Class</p>	<p>31</p>				



Friedens will be hosting the HOPES Homeless Shelter at our facility from Monday July 16 through Sunday July 29. That's right, we are hosting the shelter in our own backyard! We need two volunteers each night to assist with check-in (8:15 – 10:00 P.M.) and two volunteers to sleep overnight (9:45 P.M. – 7:15 A.M.) This is our opportunity to help those who are in temporary need of a safe place to sleep. Most of the guests are typically children. We are also in need of a coordinator who will oversee the shelter for one of the weeks. You can also help by being a snack sponsor for a day by donating \$20.00. Please sign-up on the schedule in the narthex. Please contact Jim Biever at 717-821-0130 or jbiever5543@comcast.net with any questions.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA LADIES. PLEASE GIVE YOUR GIFT CARDS FOR OR SEMINARY STUDENTS TO SISTER JANICE BY JULY 29TH. Gift cards are to be purchased at Weiss, Giant Markets or Walmart. ANYONE ELSE IN THE CONGREGATION MAY PURCHASE A GIFT CARD FOR THE SEMINARY STUDENTS IF THEY SO DESIRE.



JORDAN ATZ—He graduated from Cedar Crest and will attend Pittsburgh Technical College majoring in Computer Aid Drafting.

EMMA FLESHER—Upon graduation from ELCO high school Emma will be attending Wheaton College in Norton Massachusetts this fall majoring in Anthropology/Film and New Media Studies.

KYLER HABECKER—He graduated from ELCO, and will be attending Juniata College for Environmental Studies in the Fall

JACOB SWANGER—He graduated from Lebanon County CTC electrical program and ELCO High School. He plans to begin employment with John E. Fullerton, Inc, Electrical Contractors after a trip to Oklahoma.

KELSIE SALEM—Graduated from ELCO High School. She is going to be attending Penn State Hazleton and majoring in Physical Therapy Assistant for a 2 yr Associates Degree and play soccer.

HALEY SHERK—She graduated from ELCO High School and will be attending Penn State Harrisburg and majoring in Special Education and playing soccer.



**Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown, Pa
Church Council Meeting
May 24, 2018**

We could not hold an official council meeting on Thursday the 24th of May because there was not a quorum attending. Five in attendance represents a quorum.

Present: Scott Stephenson (President), Rev. Robert Wallace Jr. (Pastor), Wendy Gilbert (Secretary), Jim Kneasel

We could hold a discussion without taking official action. We reviewed the following items on the agenda and watched the Flourish #8 video.

1. The April 19, 2018 Council minutes will be approved at the June 3rd Congregational meeting.
2. Chuck Bissell will represent Friedens at the Synod Assembly May 31, 2018.
3. Discussion took place and consensus was to proceed with the Finance committee proposal for improvements to the church property. This proposal was presented, voted on and approved at the April 29, 2018 Congregational meeting.
4. Reports from Communications, Discipleship, Endowment, Family, Youth and Children, Fellowship, Finance, Missions, Property, Visions for Mission, and Pastor's report were reviewed.
5. Summer outside Worship for the 9am services will take place by the pavilion on July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 26, 2018.
6. Myerstown Borough requested use of the land facing north along the highway to display a banner advertising the 250th anniversary of the town.
7. Congregational Meeting will be held at 10:05am, June 3, 2018 to approve the 2018-2019 budget.
8. Pastor would like to invite congregants to come and hold discussions about our life together at Friedens. Dialogue would take place in order to open the space for free discussion while insuring everyone had an opportunity to speak. The dates would include Thursday, June 14, 7 to 8:30pm, Saturday, June 16, 9 to 10:30am, Sunday, July 15, 7 to 8:30pm, Thursday, August 2, 9:30 to 11am, and Thursday, August 16, 7 to 8:30pm. Council will be represented.
9. Council will continue with session 8 video from the Flourish Training Series followed with discussion.
10. **Next Council meeting will be Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:00pm.**
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.

Wendy Gilbert, Secretary

**Friedens Lutheran church, Myerstown, Pa
Church Congregational Meeting
June 3, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Scott Stephenson, Council President, at 10:14 in the morning.

1. "Table talk was presented for discussion to invite congregants to come and hold discussions about our life together at Friedens. On each of the 5 dates presented, Pastor would process the dialogue in order to open the space for free discussions while insuring everyone had an opportunity to share.
Thursday, June 14, 7 to 8:30pm
Saturday, June 16, 9 to 10:30am
Sunday, July 15, 7 to 8:30pm
Thursday, August 2, 9:30 to 11am
Thursday, August 16, 7 to 8:30pm
2. Scott Stephenson made a motion to accept the July 2018—June 2019 Annual Spending Plan. Chuck Bissell seconded the motion and the motion passed.
3. Discussion took place regarding concerns with the continued decline in weekly financial giving. Awareness must take place to meet monthly and yearly budgets.
4. The property committee made a request to think about a gradual financial increase for the persons mowing the church property lawn.
5. Scott Stephenson made a motion to accept the Endowment Budget for 2018/2019. Discussion took place regarding the purpose of the Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. The motion was passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am.
Wendy Gilbert, Council Secretary

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS		
<u>May 31, 2018</u>		
	<u>May 2018</u>	YTD <u>4/30/2018</u>
<u>Current Giving</u>		
Goal	\$33,856.67	\$338,566.67
Received	\$22,414.25	\$262,465.79
Percent of Plan	66%	78%
<u>Spang Crest</u>		
Received	\$ 70.00	\$ 406.00
<u>Hunger</u>		
Received	\$ 170.00	\$ 1,595.00