



The Transformer

November 2012

717-866-4910

Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, 301 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA

Thank you!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as God's chosen pastoral leader at Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church for the past 8 years. I believe we have accomplished so much together. We have come a long way.

After 8 years I do not see Friedens as the same congregation nor do I see myself as the same pastoral leader. We have grown. Changes have been made in us and through us. God is good... And God deserves all the credit for the growth and the changes that we have experienced in and through our time together at Friedens. As Saint Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:4-6,

"For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not mere human beings? What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

God deserves all the credit.

A friend of mine asked me to sum up my ministry at Friedens in one word. (As many of you know I often ask for a one word answer to a question. For example – what one word would you use to describe your relationship with Jesus, right now?) I spent some time pondering my friend's question. The one word I would use to describe my ministry at Friedens would be – *respect*. I have learned the value of respect during my season at Friedens. So here is an acronym for the word respect. Here is my ministry in one word...

R – Take RESPONSIBILITY for our own words and deeds without blaming others.

E – Use EMPATHETIC listening ears by walking in the other person's shoes in order to understand them.

S – Be SENSITIVE to where people are and meet them on their faith journey to walk with them for a season.

P – PONDER what you hear and feel before you do or say anything.

E – EXAMINE your own opinions, assumptions, perceptions, attitudes, and feelings before speaking or doing anything because people hear *how* we say things and they see *how* we do things.

C – Keep CONFIDENTIALITY because some things ought not to be repeated.

(Continued next page)



T – TRUST/TOLERATE the ambiguity because it's not about being right or wrong it's about being in loving relationships together for the sake of Jesus and his mission.

Thank you for these past 8 years of ministry together. I pray that God will continue to bless you and equip you more and more every day to be a blessing to others both in the church and in the world. You have certainly blessed me and my family these past 8 years as we go forth to answer God's call to First Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Rob Miller

Listen up!



Since 2008, the Friday after Thanksgiving has been dubbed the National Day of Listening. The nonprofit group StoryCorps encourages people to spend an hour recording an interview with a loved one, rather than battle mall crowds.

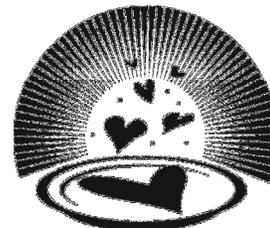
Dave Isay began StoryCorps in 2003 as an oral-history project, based on the simple idea that everyone has an authentic story worth hearing. "This is about nothing but the generosity of listening," Isay says. "When you're listening to [the stories] of everyday people — with their acts of kindness and courage that we don't take the time to honor — you're walking on holy ground."

As you gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, remember to keep your ears open!

Bible Quiz

Complete this proverb from the Bible: "Better is a dinner of vegetables where love is ..."

- A. "... than a silver platter of meat and unresolved anger."
- B. "... than a fatted ox and hatred with it."
- C. "... than a prepared bird and family bickering."
- D. All of the above.



Answer: B (See Proverbs 15:17, NRSV.)



For all families who have children in the Children's Ministry program, including what we referred to as nursery, we have made some changes to the age groups. All children who enter school this year in first grade through 5th grade will be Elementary (green room); all who enter kindergarten this fall will be Kindergarten (blue room); all children younger than entering Kindergarten will be Pre-school. The pre-school children will go to the pink and yellow rooms. These rooms will be opened up and there will be a quiet area and a play area. There will be at least two people assigned to those rooms. You may take your pre-schooler to the room prior to church service or the teachers will escort them to the room after the pastor gives the Children's Message during service. Any questions please ask Lynn Appleby, Missy Krause, Jill Kreider, or Amber Miller.



If you are interested in ordering a poinsettia to place in the church for Christmas, now is the time to do so. To order, please use the envelopes provided on the narthex bulletin board and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$6.50 each. Your order will need to be placed by November 12. You have a choice of color: red, white, marble or pink.



OUR HANDS, HIS WORK

Friedens is continuing to help at the Bahney House Project here in Myerstown. Project of the month/sign up sheet is posted on Mission Team bulletin board. Alumni and newcomers to Mission Team welcome. Experience is nice, but not necessary. Upcoming Saturday work mornings are: November 17, December 15.

5 & 10 CAMPAIGN FOR EL SALVADOR

5 weeks, \$10 a week. Starting October 28th and running through November 25th.

Please consider giving **\$10** a week for **5** weeks to provide books and school supplies for our sister parish in Nueva Esperanza, El Salvador.

You'd like to give even more? \$175 will sponsor one child for a year's participation in school.

Simply mark your financial envelope "5 & 10" or use one of the campaign envelopes found in your pew. All contributions of any amount are appreciated.

October 28-November 25. 5 weeks, \$10 a week. A great way to bless others using your gifts!

Make any checks payable to Friedens with memo: El Salvador.

NOVEMBER 2012

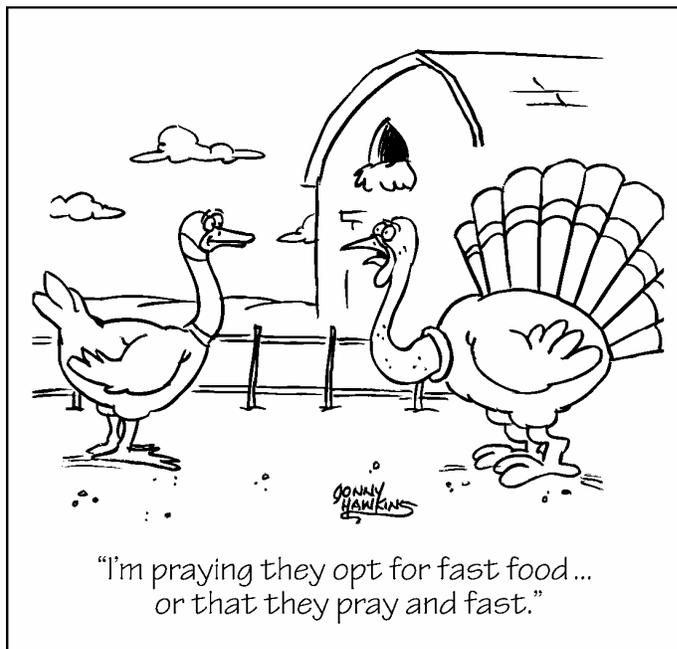
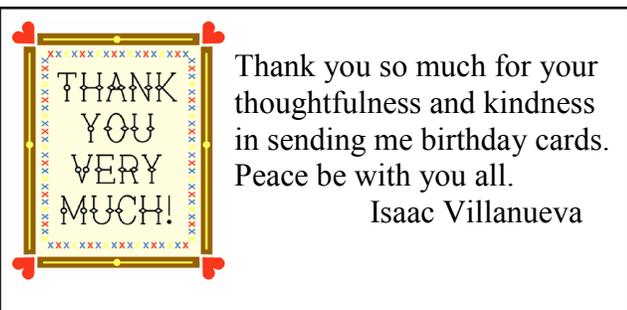
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	2	3 3:30 PM—Anniversary Concert 5 PM—Anniversary Dinner
4  9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Special Anniversary Service	5	6	7 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	8 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	9	10
11  9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	12	13 6:30 PM—Finance Committee	14 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	15 Deadline for newsletter articles 6:45 PM—Church Council 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	16	17
18 9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	19 7 PM—Women of ELCA—Parlor	20	21 7:30 PM - Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at Myerstown United Church of Christ	22 Thanksgiving Day 	23	24
25  9 AM—Contemporary Service 10:30 AM—Traditional Service	26 7 PM—Visitation Team	27	28 9 AM—Women Sew 6:45 PM—Praise & Worship Band 7:30 PM—Adult Choir	29 7 PM—Heavenly Metal Handbell Choir	30	

DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our LIFE Group is studying a curriculum entitled Not a fan... Have you ever been asked the question "Are you a follower of Jesus"? For many of us it is a familiar question and there is a tendency to dismiss it. Not because it makes us uncomfortable. Not because It's especially convicting. The question is dismissed mostly because it doesn't feel necessary.

One of the most sobering passages of Scripture tells of a day when many who consider themselves to be followers of Jesus will be stunned to find out that He doesn't even recognize them. In the Gospel of Luke Chapter 7, Jesus tells of a day where everyone who has ever lived will stand before God. On that day many who call themselves Christians and identify themselves as followers will stand confidently in front of Jesus only to hear him say, "I never knew you". Now I realize this sounds a bit harsh and can even make a person squirm depending on where you are in your relationship with Christ. However the real challenge is ...taking the time to define what your relationship with Christ is??? If you are completely confident about where you are in your journey than I would strongly encourage you to reach out to your neighbors and friends and to the strangers that God places in your life. If you're NOT completely confirmed in where you stand with Christ then take some time and reevaluate your relationship with Jesus... It will be well worth it.

Christ's Peace
Valerie

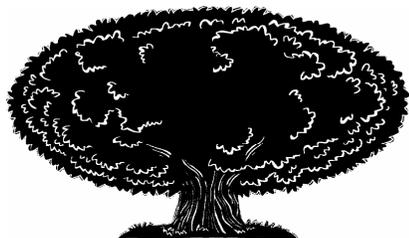


NOVEMBER INSTALLMENT OF YOU ARE THERE:

Work on the first church building was begun in the spring of 1812. The cornerstone of this building was laid on the 23rd day of April 1812. At this time the Congregation received the name Friedens. The document placed in the cornerstone was signed by the following pastors: Rev. William B. Beatis, Rev. William Hendel, Rev. Phillip Gloninger and Rev. Von Hoff. The offering at the cornerstone laying amounted to \$183.75. The church was dedicated November 1, 1812, at which time the offering amount was \$244.20. The church was a one story limestone building, fifty-five feet long and thirty-six feet wide. The building was adorned with a tower and was provided with a bell. The tower was at the west end of the building and extended out from the main wall, forming a recess back of the pulpit, which was situated at the same end of the building. This recess in the tower was later occupied by the pipe organ. The tower had a double belfry shape. A balcony extended along three sides of the church. The cost of this building is not known. The total subscriptions and offerings amounted to \$2,472.75; it is possible that this represented the cost of the building. (History at Centennial Anniversary Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church, June 23, 1912.)

**LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD,
LWR 2011 Donation Tally**

5, 013 Quilts	82 New Fabric Kits
1,622 New Personal Care Kits	94 New Baby Care Kits
2,032 Old School Kits	5,532 Bars of Soap
1,938 New School Kits	Money donations for the former "Project Comfort Fund (Now Quilt and Kits Shipping Fund) totaled \$13,482.91
823 Blankets	Added—16 more bricks in the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza in Baltimore.
136 Old Sewing Kits	



Memorial Gifts

The Memorial team would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on ways we can show appreciation for our brothers and sisters in Christ that have walked the halls and sat in the pews here at Friedens. Through the money that is available in the memorial fund we would like to purchase items or upgrades to honor these people. Please contact: Kerry Keller, Len Schott, Maria Achenbach or e-mail to tkeller@verizon.net





Be a ‘temporary’ choir member! Here is a chance to join the choir – for just one rehearsal plus one performance!

Sunday, November 4, 10:30 a.m. Anniversary service. Anthem will be “With a Voice of Singing” by Martin Shaw. One rehearsal only on Sunday, October 28, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

If you’re interested, please come tonight at 7:30. We’ll be meeting in the sanctuary.

OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

September 2012

				% of Budget
Current Budget	Goal	\$26,258.00	Goal to Date	\$ 236,322.00
\$315,093.00	Rec’d	\$27,366.00	Rec’d to Date	233,957.00
Spang Crest	Rec’d	65.00	Rec’d to Date	565.00
Hunger	Rec’d	330.00	Rec’d to Date	2,385.00



Finance Committee

The **finance committee** is planning to present the spending plan for 2013 on Sunday, November 18 at 10 A.M. for a vote following the Contemporary Worship Service. Budget information will be available in the narthex on November 4. On Sunday November 4 and 11, members of the finance committee will be available in fellowship hall between worship services to answer questions and listen to comments or concerns about the budget.



Say Goodbye to Our Pastor and Family

On November 18, 2012 after the 10:30 service, we are scheduling a farewell luncheon for Pastor Miller and his family. It will be in the form of a pot luck. Plan to attend and bring your favorite covered dish. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please come to the luncheon even if you don't want to bring a covered dish. All are welcome.



Coffee Fellowship

What a wonderful time of fellowship we share after worship in fellowship hall. A time to mingle and catch up with members and a great opportunity to welcome our visitors.

We are looking for volunteers to host the coffee social. There is not a lot of work involved, the coffee is provided, you just need to prepare the coffee and provide a snack to share. Won't you please consider hosting the fellowship. A sign-up sheet is on the table in fellowship hall. If you have any questions you can talk to Annette Beamesderfer, Carmela Deck or Susie Harper.



Food Collection

On Sunday, November 4, food will be collected for the Lebanon County Food Bank. All gifts are welcomed. There is a need for instant mashed potatoes, canned potatoes, cold cereal, 18 oz. jams & jellies, 5 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. canned chicken, 12 oz. Spam, toothpaste, toothbrushes and toiletries. In honor of our 200th Anniversary our goal each month is 200 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the Food Bank. We collected 184 pounds of food in September.



Community Thanksgiving Service

Myerstown United Church of Christ congregation will host the **Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service** this year. The service will be held on Wednesday, November 21st, at 7:30 PM. **Attitude of Gratitude: Kids Thanksgiving Musical** will be presented as part of this worship service. Participating in the musical will be the children from Pre-Kindergarten through Middler classes. .

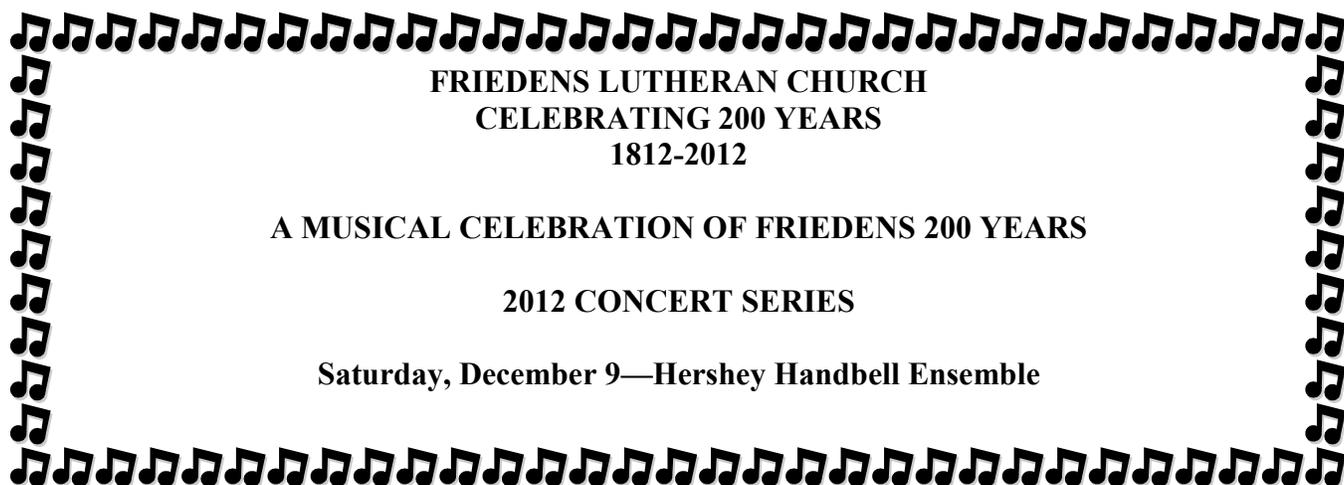
MONTHLY FREE MEAL

Myerstown United Church of Christ will again host a monthly free meal on the second Thursday of every month beginning in September and ending with the May meal. It is our way as a congregation, to reach out to our community in Christian love. Everyone is welcome. The meal hours are 4 PM-7 PM. We appreciate your willingness to share in this outreach. Please contact the church office, 866-5252, if you have any questions.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

The following items were sent: 20 Fabric Kits, 50 Blankets and 61 Personal Care items





Make your plans now for our 200th anniversary weekend on November 3rd and 4th. On Saturday, November 3, starting at 3:30 P.M. we will have Dawn and Randy Marks providing the Friedens Family with a special Anniversary Concert. At 5 P.M. we will have dinner with the following menu: Roast Beef or Filled Chicken, vegetables including filling, broccoli Normandy, and cole slaw; rolls; coffee and Wenger drinks.



**Finance
Committee**

The finance committee is starting to work on the distribution of funds from the endowment funds income. Please give any requests to any member of the finance committee or drop it off in the office. The request will be passed on to the finance committee.

Elaine Lasch



**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Special Church Council Meeting
October 11, 2012**

Pastor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:54 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Jeff Gumpert (Vice President), Frank Armstrong, Joanne Maurer (Secretary), Pastor Miller and Denise Noll.

Excused: Bruce Kauffman (President), and Chris Heft.

1. Pastor Miller gave us a review and update on Bruce Kauffman.
2. A Special meeting called by Pastor Miller, on October 11, 2012 for Council to discern (see letter), on our direction in Leadership.
Jeff Gumpert made a motion to accept Pastor Miller’s resignation, effective on November 18, 2012.
Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
3. Closed with a Prayer by Pastor Miller and a few Council members with the Lord’s Prayer.
4. Meeting closed at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer
Council Secretary

**Friedens (Peace) Lutheran Church, Myerstown, PA
Church Council Meeting
October 18, 2012**

Pastor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM.

Present: Jody Appleby, Frank Armstrong, Jeff Gumpert (Vice President), Chris Heft, Elaine Lasch (Treasurer), Joanne Maurer (Secretary), and Pastor Miller.

Excused: Bruce Kauffman (President), and Denise Noll.

Jeff Gumpert offered the opening Prayer and Pastor Miller led a reading from Matthew 5: 21- 26. Discussion followed based one question: What stands out to you “personally,” in a verse or word?

1. Minutes/Reports/Communications:
 - a. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept September minutes. Jody Appleby seconded. Motion carried.
 - b. Jody Appleby made a motion to accept September Financial Secretary’s report.
Frank Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.
 - c. Frank Armstrong made a motion to accept September Treasurer’s report.
Chris Heft seconded. Motion carried.

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2. Pastor's Reports:
 - a.. Thanksgiving Service November 21, 2012, will be held at U.C.C. Church, Myerstown, PA.
 - b. Received letter from Rev. Andrew J. Evenson (Dean, Lebanon Conference).
Church Council will meet on October 29, 2012 with Rev. Evenson to Pray and explain the transition process for an interim.
 - c. In area of our Mission for 2013:
A line item Budget was presented by the Finance Committee members. Finance Committee members will be available on Sunday morning, in the Fellowship Hall.
A narrative budget will be presented to the congregation in November.
 - d. Sent to Lutheran World Relief:
 1. Fabric Kits, 20 – 38 pounds.
 2. Blankets, 50 - 301 pounds.
 3. Personal Care 61 – 121 pounds.
 - e. Special request to contribute for the 5 & 10 Campaign and support this ministry to El Salvador, \$10.00 a week for 5 weeks, starting October 28, 2012.
3. Commuications:
 - a. Thank you letter from Luthercare in September for a gift to Spang Crest for \$55.00.
 - b. Thank you letter from Myerstown Community Library, a donation to Friedens for \$100.00.
 - c. Thank you letter from Lutheran Camping Corp. in October for a gift for \$500.00.
 - d. Thank you letter from Luthercare in October for a gift to Spang Crest for \$24.00.
4. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.
5. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

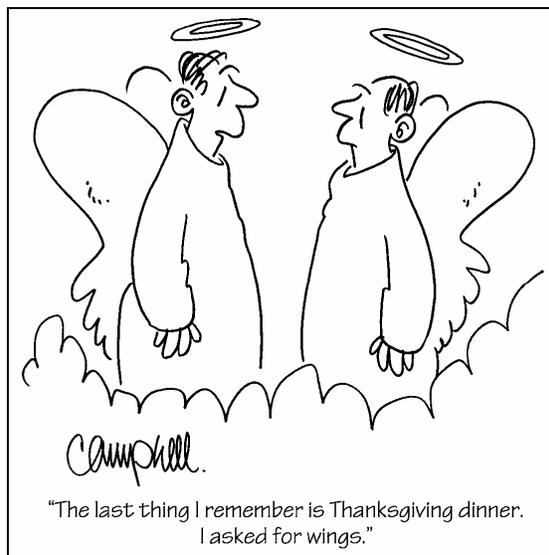
Respectfully submitted by Joanne Maurer
Council Secretary

Silver lining

Burned your turkey to a crisp? Don't despair!

Craig Boldman and Pete Matthews, authors of Every Excuse in the Book (Mjif Books), offer reasons to be thankful for a blackened bird:

- You'll get a good upper-body workout from carving the bird.
- No one will get food poisoning from undercooked poultry.
- You can move straight to dessert.
- You won't have to deal with weeks of leftovers.
- Pets won't pester you for scraps.
- It was time to test your smoke alarm anyway.



A PONDERING

I recall an old movie entitled “One Foot in Heaven.” Perhaps some of you past the age of fifty might remember this story of faith. It is a saga of a country Pastor’s efforts to build a new church over the strong objections of most, if not all, the prominent members of his congregation. It is through these members objections, contrary to all earthly logic, that this pastor succeeded in establishing a beautiful new edifice to the glory of God.

He led them from a complacency of contentment with what is—to a contemplation of what could be.

He assuaged their fears of the new—by illuminating the foundations of the past.

He emphasized the divinity in each and taught each to recognize it in others.

He encouraged the talents of each for the benefit of all.

He placed God’s mission in each members hands and trusted their faithfulness.

The pastor accomplished what seemed to be an impossibility by leading members directly into and through their fears and anxieties—transporting them into a new awareness of their church and self.

Of course this was just a production from Hollywood. This was a celluloid dream. But ponder for a moment. Haven’t we all met members like these with those human frailties many times? But how often do you meet a Pastor like this -

That renewed and energized your faith.

That illuminated your spirit.

That calmed your trepidations of the future.

That helped you see the ever present and forgiving God
in your life and the lives of others.

I’ll venture to guess not often. But I know I met such a pastor and I’m quite sure he has “One Foot in Heaven”.

Respectfully,
F. A. Armstrong



The church office is open
from 9 AM— 1 PM
Monday-Friday.