

*FRIEDENS FLYER*

*February 2020*



## Pastor's Message

I met a man from Haiti today. Haiti is a Caribbean island country, a sub-tropical place where snow never falls and the sun shines almost every day...almost, because Haiti is in the path of hurricanes and tropical storms and has been hit by more than its share of earthquakes, too. Most people don't know much about Haiti, except that it is a struggling place, which has been its condition for a long time. Most people don't know that Haiti is the second oldest republic in the Western Hemisphere, having gained its independence from France in 1804. But in all of those years of freedom, Haiti has been plagued not only by acts of nature, but by political incompetence and a lot of corruption, which seem to go hand-in-hand, as we know so well. The result is a lot of suffering on the part of the Haitian people. Through all of these years they have sought to dig themselves out of poverty and into whatever century they were living. Unfortunately, it is now the year 2020 and many Haitian people are still living as though it were 1804.

The gentleman that talked with me said that 80% of Haitians do not have access to clean water for drinking, cooking, bathing and other daily functions. Many people have to walk miles for water at open springs where there is a high chance that the water is already contaminated with disease-causing bacteria. Sickness and fatalities from water-borne disease is high by any standards. So my new friend asked if I might talk to my congregations about helping. When you're thirsty, you'll go to whatever lengths necessary to get a drink, even if it means coming all the way to Schuylkill County.

Jesus saw this same sort of thing. He looked around and watched people running up to him, begging for a small sign of hope, pleading for healing, hoping that at least the pain would subside a little. At first, Jesus kept his ministry close to home, and then branched out to help people of every persuasion. Once, he even met a foreign woman at a well and offered to give her "the water that gushes up to eternal life." You can guess what happened next. Soon the naysayers were complaining that Jesus should "keep it local" because "we have enough problems here without having to worry about those other places." Jesus saw all of this coming; he really did, because it's a condition as old as humanity. Just read your Bible. When Cain killed his brother Abel, Cain ran away, thinking he had no obligation for the welfare of his brother. When the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother", Cain responded, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

I hope you know the response to the Lord's question. Selfishness believes we only need to worry about people who look, act, talk, think, and live like us. Being created in the image of God means we care about God's people who are as strange and different from us as we are to them. St. Paul once had to deal with a congregation (Corinthians) that refused to help the church in Jerusalem, where people were starving and persecuted. So he told that wayward group of Christians that he knew of yet another congregation (Macedonians) who gave support to the Jerusalem church even as they (the Macedonians) were in dire straits themselves! Paul's message was simple: God's love is not to be confined to the neighborhood of our choosing.

The clear word of scripture is that being Christian is never a matter of prioritizing our needs over and above the people God wants us to serve. We don't save our skin by sacrificing others. We don't live like Cain, oblivious to our responsibility to serve and suffer for the sake of others. When Jesus was here,

walking the earth, he did all he could, touching lives everywhere, then said it would be left to his followers, you and me, to pick up where he left off. Could it be that God has sent a messenger to Hegin, pleading for help? I can't be sure, but I was moved by his story.

I never met the man from Haiti before and I can barely pronounce his name, but something leads me to believe I know him from a previous encounter. He seems so much like a man, a stranger, who once went to a distant village, looking for water, only to change the lives and quench the thirst of all those he met. Perhaps you know him, too.

***Pastor Swanson***



Thanks to all who sent sympathy cards after the passing of my brother, John Moyer on December 25, 2019. Your kind words and prayers were comforting during this difficult time. He was a wonderful person who will be missed by all of our family.

Jean Klinger and family.



#### How the Prayer List works...

1. A person whose name is submitted for the weekly prayer list will be prayed for aloud on the Sunday the name is received.
2. The name will continue on the prayer list for three weeks, but will not be read aloud.
3. After three weeks in the bulletin, the name will be removed from the prayer list.
4. A name may be re-submitted to the prayer list and read aloud *on the Sunday it is received*.

**Names may be added to the Sunday bulletin prayer list by calling the church office no later than Thursday prior to Sunday worship (570-682-9690).** If you forget to call, a prayer card is available from the ushers to fill out and return to ushers for Pastor Swanson before service. Ushers will give names and changes to the secretary. Prayer requests for the *Friedens prayer chain* can be made by calling Julie Klinger (682-9110) or Nancy Kline (682-9160).



We will be having our Spring Bazaar on Saturday March 14th from 9am-noon. This sale will feature baked goods, hoagies and soup. Anyone wishing to help or donate items can contact Damaris Merwine, Amy Allvord, Julie Klinger or drop donated items off the day before or day of the bazaar. This and the Mr. Sticky sale (dated for May 20th) will be put into funds for the repair of our parking lot and new Sunday school curtains. Hope to see you there!

**Joint worship on February 2:** Please remember that *Friedens* will join with our friends at *St. James, Pitman*, for worship on Sunday, February 2, at 10:30 am. This will be a dedicatory celebration of the new addition to the St. James building. Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Bishop Samuel Zeiser will be in attendance to preach and will join us for the "Souper Bowl" luncheon after worship. *There will be no worship at Friedens this day.* Please sign your name to one of the clipboards in the narthex if you plan to stay for the luncheon. All are welcome. **What to bring?** *Either a soup or a dessert... and a canned good that will be donated to the St. John's Food Bank.*



FRIEDENS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
510 E. Main Street, Hegins, PA



SPRING BAZAAR, March 14, 2020  
9:00-11:00 AM



HOAGIES

SOUPS

BAKED GOODS



**SPRING.. FOOD FOR ALL**





# February

| Sun                                                                                                                                          | Mon | Tue                                                                            | Wed                                                               | Thu                                                                      | Fri | Sat |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
|                                                                                                                                              |     |                                                                                |                                                                   |                                                                          |     | 1   |
| <p>2 Presentation Of Our Lord<br/>10:30am-Joint Worship w/<br/>Communion @ St. James<br/>Soup To Follow....</p> <p>4pm-Conf. @ St. James</p> | 3   | 4                                                                              | <p>5<br/>8:00am-Worship&amp;Music</p> <p>Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm</p> | <p>6<br/>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:00pm-Choir</p>                       | 7   | 8   |
| <p>9 5th Epiphany<br/>9:00am-Worship<br/>10:15am-Sunday School</p>                                                                           | 10  | <p>11<br/>8:30am-Christian Ed.</p> <p>6:45pm-Executives<br/>7:00pm-Council</p> | 12                                                                | <p>13<br/>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:00pm-Choir</p>                      | 14  | 15  |
| <p>16 6th Epiphany<br/>9:00am-Worship w/Anthem<br/>10:15am-Sunday School</p> <p>4pm-Conf. @ Friedens</p>                                     | 17  | 18                                                                             | <p>19<br/>Girl Scouts 6-7:30pm</p>                                | <p>20<br/>Bulletin &amp;<br/>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>5:00pm-Choir</p> | 21  | 22  |
| <p>23 Transfiguration<br/>9:00am-Worship w/<br/>Children's Anthem<br/>10:15am-Sunday School</p>                                              | 24  | 25                                                                             | <p>26 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>7pm-Service @ Trinity</p>              | <p>27<br/>Bulletin Deadline</p> <p>5:00pm-Choir</p>                      | 28  | 29  |

| <b>February 2020</b><br>Worship-9:00am<br>Sunday School-10:15am<br><br><b>ALTAR GUILD</b><br>Julie & Ruth | <b>Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup></b> -Presentation<br>10:30am-Worship &<br>Communion Joint Service @<br>St. James<br><i>SouperBowl Following...</i><br><br>4pm-Confirmation @<br>St. James | <b>Feb. 9<sup>th</sup></b> -Epiphany 5<br>9:00am-Worship<br>10:15am-Sunday School | <b>Feb. 16<sup>th</sup></b> -Epiphany 6<br>9:00am-Worship w/<br>Anthem<br>10:15am-Sunday School<br><br>4:00pm-Confirmation @<br>Friedens | <b>Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup></b> - Transfiguration<br>9:00am-Worship w/<br>Children's Anthem<br><i>Fellowship</i><br>10:15am-Sunday School | <b>Mar. 1<sup>st</sup></b> -1 Lent<br>9:00am-Worship w/<br>Communion<br>10:15am-Sunday<br>School<br><br>A.G.-Ann, Vicki & Jess | <b>Mar. 8<sup>th</sup></b> -2 Lent<br>9:00am-Worship<br>10:15am-Sunday School |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACOLYTES                                                                                                  | N/A                                                                                                                                                                              | Volunteer                                                                         | Volunteer                                                                                                                                | Volunteer                                                                                                                             | Volunteers                                                                                                                     | Volunteer                                                                     |
| COUNTERS                                                                                                  | Nancy Kline &<br>Lee Kiefer                                                                                                                                                      | Kathryn Otto &<br>Palmer Geist                                                    | MaryJane Allvord &<br>Julie Klinger                                                                                                      | Jean & Gary Klinger                                                                                                                   | Nancy Kline &<br>Lee Kiefer                                                                                                    | Kathryn Otto &<br>Palmer Geist                                                |
| FELLOWSHIP                                                                                                | Congregations                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                          | Melody & Christy                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                |                                                                               |
| GREETERS/*E.E.                                                                                            | N/A                                                                                                                                                                              | Jess & Dave Henninger<br>*Kathryn & Renee'                                        | Dolores Huntsinger<br>*Janet & Ron Radel                                                                                                 | Julie & Jean Klinger<br>*Linda & Lee Kiefer                                                                                           | Christy Leiter<br>*Peggy & Sue                                                                                                 | Jade & Hannah<br>*Jane & Ed Tietsworth                                        |
| LAY ASSISTANT                                                                                             | N/A                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       | Julie Klinger                                                                                                                  |                                                                               |
| LECTOR                                                                                                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                              | TBA                                                                               | TBA                                                                                                                                      | TBA                                                                                                                                   | TBA                                                                                                                            | TBA                                                                           |
| USHERS<br>*Head Usher Feb.:<br>Rick Herring                                                               | N/A                                                                                                                                                                              | *<br>Ed Hornung<br>Ed Tietsworth<br>Rodney Troutman                               | *<br>A.J. Kline<br>Ann Miller<br>Andrew Alvord                                                                                           | *<br>Ben Wetzel<br>Ruth Wetzel<br>Larry Klinger                                                                                       | *HU-Jeff Klinger<br>Kathryn Otto<br>Damaris Merwine<br>Michael Allvord                                                         | *<br>Christy Leiter<br>Mike Deiter<br>Julie Klinger                           |
| VIDEO                                                                                                     | Volunteer                                                                                                                                                                        | Volunteer                                                                         | Volunteer                                                                                                                                | Volunteer                                                                                                                             | Volunteer                                                                                                                      | Volunteer                                                                     |

## February Birthdays

5 Michael Allvord

7 Jenny Clink

6 Junior Kehler

7 Deanna Henningsen

11 SarahAnn Grantz

12 Darlene Dunkelberger

17 Anson Lenker

20 Seth Maurer

25 Linda Kiefer



**January 17, 2020**

**St. John's U.M. Emergency Food Closet  
601 Main Street  
Hegins, PA 17938  
570-682-9157**

St. John's Emergency Food Closet board members would like to thank you for your donation(s) of food and/or money in 2019.

The Food Closet Project started in 1982 and was designed to make more effective and accessible the loving service already evidenced in our congregation and other congregations in the area. It was and still is based on the scripture for Luke 3:11.

“He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; And he who has food, let him do likewise”

Because of your donations, we made 149 calls and reached out to 413 people for the year 2019.

We, the board of St. John's Emergency Food Closet, are thankful that we could help those who were going through rough times and provide food for them. We feel truly blessed by this mission. God bless all of you for your help and donations and we pray that you would continue to support this worthwhile project.



\* A JAR OF \*  
**Love and Appreciation**



Sometimes we forget to show love and appreciation to people who are closest to us. Use this fun craft to let everyone in your family know how much you care.

**What you need:**

- Plastic jar with lid
- Heart-shaped foam pieces
- Heart-shaped stickers
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil or crayons

**What you do:**

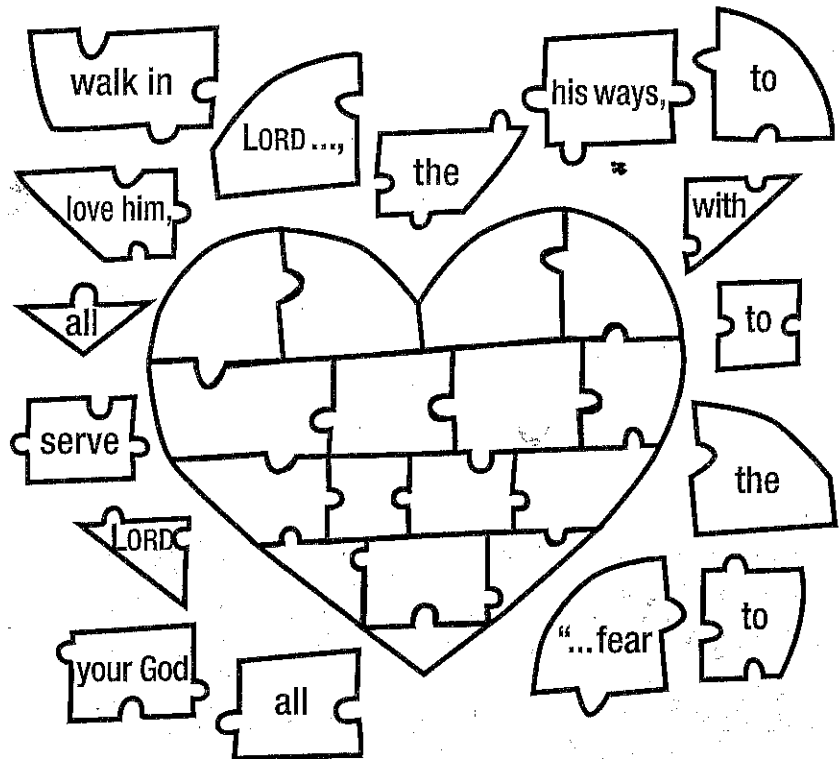
1. Decorate the jar and lid with heart-shaped foam pieces and stickers.
2. Cut out 2" or 3" heart shapes from the construction paper.
3. On each paper heart, write what you appreciate and love about your family and each member. Have all family members do this, too.
4. Place the heart messages inside the jar. Fold them in half, if necessary.
5. On each day in February, pull out one heart and read the message aloud to the family.
6. Notice the changes in your family when everyone feels loved and appreciated!

## Just for KIDS

# Our first love

In Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV), Israel is asked a question that's also for us to answer: "What does the LORD your God ask of you?"

To find the answer, write the words from the puzzle pieces on the matching shapes in the completed heart.



*... your heart and with all your soul ..."*

Answer: " ... fear the LORD ...," "to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all ..."

[KID0210A]

[KID0210B]