

# FRIEDENS REFORMED CHURCH

P O BOX J

TRIPP, SD 57376

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2020 Quarter 2



## WELCOME PASTOR UNDERHILE AND FAMILY

On a beautiful February weekend, Friedens hosted Pastor Andy, his wife Nhora, and their three children Aletheia, Ariene and Aidan. Pastor Underhile conducted the church service on Sunday, the 16<sup>th</sup>. After the service, a congregational meeting was held wherein the members of the church voted to extend the call to Pastor Underhile. They accepted the position. They made the move to Tripp and Pastor Andy had his first service on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. We give a warm welcome to them and hope they enjoy our small friendly community.

## PASTOR ANDY UNDERHILE BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Andrew Underhile, PhD., had the wonderful privilege of growing up in a Christian home. He has been in Gospel ministry for over 20 years. For much of this time he served in the Philippines. He has worked as a missionary, pastor, seminary professor, and translator. During his time in the Philippines, he also traveled with a band that recorded two albums, which were mostly his compositions.

He completed his MDiv in 2006 and his PhD in 2016. He is affiliated with the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Churches. He has written two books: *The Church's Favorite Flower*, a survey of the doctrines of grace in the writings of the Church Fathers, and *Comfort in Chaos*, a devotional commentary on the book of Nahum. He currently serves as an academic mentor for The North American Reformed Seminary ([tnars.net](http://tnars.net)).

In 2002, he and Nhora were married. God has blessed their union with 3 children: Aletheia, Ariene, and Aidan.

He loves the historic Reformed confessions and catechisms, especially the Heidelberg Catechism. He believes that the family is the building block of the church as well as of society. He believes Christian parents are called to do everything in their power to ensure that their children are raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord. This includes Family Worship, Bible reading, devotional reading, catechism and prayer.

(Biography can be found on the Pastor's Page on our website.)



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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. I Thessalonians 4:9

I don't know if this is the best place, but I don't know when I will have this type of opportunity, an opportunity to address everyone at Friedens Reformed Church in a setting outside of a worship service, so I will take advantage of this chance to share with you my gratitude for your "brotherly love."

On behalf of my entire family, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome and kindness you have extended to us. The weekend we spent in Tripp back in February will forever live in my memory. We were overwhelmed by your friendliness and willingness to accommodate us. All I have ever desired was a place to serve the Lord and His people in a place where I knew that my family would be loved. I know that we have found such a place in Friedens Reformed Church.

I remember standing amazed as every single person filed out of the sanctuary and greeted me at the back with, "Welcome to Tripp," or "Welcome to Friedens." I am aware that there were certainly some "no" votes that morning, but, nonetheless, every single person greeted me "Welcome." That was a very touching and humbling experience.

After having spent several weeks in the throes of packing and preparing for the move, it will be a relief to finally settle into our new life in Tripp. We are excited and look forward with anticipation to see how the Lord plans to bless our new life together.

Part of the "new" will be the inevitable changes that my ministry will bring with it. Rest assured that I have no intention of changing things simply for the sake of changing them. I believe that the Church is the household of God, so I try very hard not to let personal preferences enter into the discussion as a determining factor for what is done in church or how things are ordered. My heart's truest desire is to let God be God over all things, including how He is worshiped. So I ask you to bear with me as we work through the time of adjustment. The initial discomfort, if there is any, will only be growing pains, by which God will unite our hearts and strengthen our love for each other.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome and thank you for the call to serve you.

Pastor Andy & family

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## PARSONAGE RECEIVES FACELIFT

While the parsonage was vacant, we completed updates to the home. Keith Stoebner did the construction work. We replaced the vanity along with the bathroom countertop and kitchen countertop. Richard Gall did the cabinet work. New carpet and flooring were laid in the office, upstairs bedrooms, hallway and stairway. New window coverings were installed. New doors were also installed. Fresh paint was applied to the walls throughout the house.

Many people worked hard to make this project possible. A special thank you to all who donated your time, money and talents!

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## CHURCH SERVICES GO LIVE ON YOUTUBE

With the pandemic making it difficult to gather for events, we will broadcast our church services on Friedens Reformed Church YouTube channel. Please be patient with us as we work to bring you quality sound and picture. We hope you will enjoy the services from the safety of your homes. To find our live stream just visit our church website [FriedensReformedChurch.com](http://FriedensReformedChurch.com) and on the front page you will find a place to "Click here for Live Church Services" and that will take you to the live stream. If you would like to look at past videos you can click on "Previous Services" and choose the service you are looking for. If you have any questions, or you would like to sign up for automatic notifications from YouTube please call Caleb Finck at 605-933-2042 and he can help you get setup!

## WOMEN'S GUILD UPDATES (January - March)

### Women's Guild (Jan-Mar)

As has been tradition, our Guild held no regular business meetings in the months of January and February; nonetheless, we kept busy assisting with several church events in February and early March.

On Saturday, February 15, a Meet and Greet evening luncheon was held in the Church reception area for Pastor Andy Underhile and his family, along with a pot-luck meal following the church service on Sunday, February 16. Thank you, Friedens, for your warm welcome to the Underhiles and for your contributions to these events!

The Women's Guild also served a luncheon for three funerals in the month of February. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Edna Hoff, Keith Dewald and Rueben Keller.

On March 1st, the Guild assisted with hosting a soup and sandwich parsonage renovation fund raiser following the church service. We are grateful and thankful to the congregation and to our friends from Tripp and our surrounding communities for attending, for your donations, and for supporting us in this event.

Reminder: Any youth planning to attend a summer camp, please get the necessary information to the Guild by April 30th for fee donation consideration.

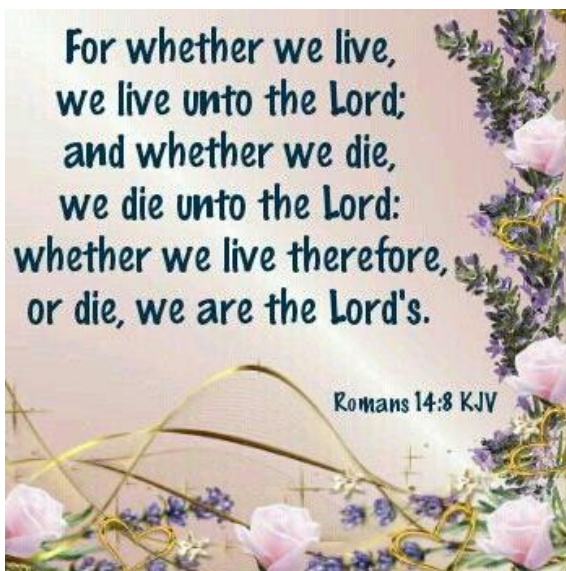
And, most importantly, the Guild and Friedens Church, would like to warmly welcome Pastor Andy, Nhora, Aletheia, Ariene and Aidan Underhile to Friedens and to Tripp! We are thankful to see you join our Friedens Church family!

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Edna Hoff, born March 2, 1918, passed away on February 11, 2020. Danny VanGerpen, former nursing home administrator, performed the service.

Keith Dewald, born October 26, 1939, went to his heavenly home on February 13, 2020. The service was led by Jason Weber.

Rueben Keller passed away on February 16, 2020. He was born on February 19, 1931. The service was led by Pastor Mike Boyle, Memorial Baptist Church pastor.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the families.

## NEW CHURCH SIGNS

At the annual church meeting in January, the congregation voted to replace the four church signs along Hwy 18 and Hwy 37. The cost to replace each sign is approximately \$1,000. At that time, the goal was to raise funds to replace the two most weather beaten signs. Through the generosity of our members, we have raised enough money to replace those two signs. The consistory has decided to continue to raise the funds needed to replace the other two signs.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please specify that on your donation. Glen Dewald is building the signs.



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## MOWING BIDS DUE APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>

It is that time of year again. The Foundation Committee is requesting mowing bids for any of the seven Church cemeteries and the playground. Contact Vicki Huether, Foundation president, for more information. Her cell phone number is (605) 933-2338. Bids can be mailed to Vicki at PO Box 121, Tripp, SD, 57376. Bids are due before or by the Foundation meeting on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>.

# ONE BODY WITH MANY MEMBERS

(1 Corinthians 12:12-14)

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

## 2020 Committees

### Consistory:

Tim Mehlhaff, President  
Sheldon Huether, Vice-President  
Todd Frey, General Treasurer  
Conrad Finck, Asst General Treasurer  
Amy Brown, Benevolent Treasurer  
Mark Gemar, Asst Benevolent Treasurer  
Keith Stoebner, Special Funds Treasurer  
Mike Nuss, Asst Special Funds Treasurer  
Tom Schmidt, Financial Secretary  
David Winckler, Asst Financial Secretary  
Mark Stoebner, Secretary  
Caleb Finck, Asst Secretary

### Christian Education Committee:

Gary Schnabel, Superintendent  
Amy Brown, Treasurer  
Lennis Mehlhaff                      Lori Dewald  
Jeff Mehlhaff                              Jen Gemar  
Jody Schnabel                              Eileen Gall

### Women's Guild:

Eileen Gall                              Phyllis Dewald  
Pauline Finck                              Sandra Stoebner  
Marlene Nuss                              Sally Schatz  
Ruby Reiner                                Brenda Stoebner  
Diane Stoebner                              Geri Saenz  
Robin Stoebner                              Diane Kuper  
Betty Wormsbecher                              Kathy Barton  
Betty Lou Meyer  
Honory Member – Ruby Batterman (24 years)

### Foundation Members:

Vicki Huether                              Marvin Frey  
Robert Hoff                                Lori Dewald  
Jen Gemar                                    Sheri K. Fischer  
David Finck                                   Lynn Stoebner  
Keith Frey                                    Tim Mehlhaff  
Keith Stoebner                               David Winckler

### Music Committee:

Conrad Finck                               Keith Stoebner  
Lennis Mehlhaff                              Shelly Finck

### Welcome Committee:

Lois and George Verzani  
Lennis and Judy Mehlhaff

### Building & Grounds Committee:

Mark Gemar, Sheldon Huether, Todd Frey

### Cemetery Committee:

Marvin Frey                                Marlin Nuss  
Terry Maag                                 David Winckler

### Auditing Committee:

Hope Maag                                 David Finck

### Christmas Committee:

Tim and Jane Mehlhaff  
Tiffany and Seth Horstman  
Glen and Lori Dewald  
Sheena and Dallas Peskey

### Custodian: Mary Lou Hoff

### Historian: Robert Hoff

### Secretary: Judy Mehlhaff

### Technology Coordinator: Caleb Finck

## Friedens' Nursing Home/Assisted Living Residents (With Addresses and Birthdays)

1. Ruby Batterman – David M. Dorsett Health Care-Memory Care Center, 1020 N. 10th St., Spearfish, SD 57783  
Birthday: March 13
2. Maydean Dewald – Borman Manor; 501 N. 4th St., Parkston, SD 57366;  
Birthday: Feb. 13
3. Gideon Schultz – Sister James Health Care Facility, #122 Country, 2111 W. 11th St, Yankton, SD 57078                      Birthday: Feb. 23
4. Betty L. Meyer – Good Samaritan Luther Manor; Rm 519; 1500 W 38th St., Sioux Falls, SD 57105                      Birthday: Aug. 4
5. Bob Pietz – Sister James Health Care Facility; 2111 W 11th, Chalkstone; Yankton, SD 57078  
Birthday: June 24 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Elva Brosz – Borman Manor; 501 N 4th St; Parkston, SD 57366                      Birthday: Feb. 22

## Friedens' Shut-ins

1. Meta Herr–P.O. Box 131, Tripp, SD 57376
2. Janelle Meisenhoelder–101 S. Carpenter St., Tripp, SD 57376
3. Violet Ehresmann–P.O. Box 127, Tripp, SD 57376
4. Maynard and Adeline Dewald–P.O. Box 152, Tripp, SD 57376
5. Leroy Pietz–41115 284<sup>th</sup> Street, Tripp, SD 57376

## BIBLE VERSES OF COMFORT

During this very worrisome time, we need to turn our hearts and minds to the Bible. Please take more time in your daily routine to pray for answers. Pray for comfort for those who are struggling with this disease, for those struggling with anxiety and fear for the unknown. There are many verses in the Bible that can provide you with this comfort. Here are a handful to start you out:

Isaiah 41:10

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Deuteronomy 31:6

"Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; He will not fail you or forsake you."

Joshua 1:9

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

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## EA NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE

Friedens belongs to the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. If you are interested in viewing their newsletter, The Networker, printed copies are available in the narthex. You can also sign up on their website to receive their newsletter. Their website address is <http://evangelicalassociation.org/>.

## OFFERING SCHEDULE

April 5<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
12<sup>th</sup> Benevolent Fund-Easter  
19<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
26<sup>th</sup> Building Fund

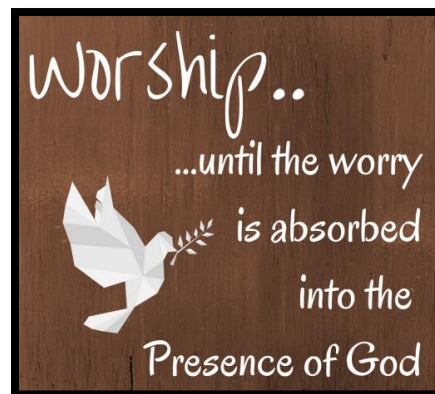
May 3<sup>rd</sup> General Fund  
10<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
17<sup>th</sup> Building Fund  
24<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
31<sup>st</sup> General Fund

June 7<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
14<sup>th</sup> General Fund  
21<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
28<sup>th</sup> General Fund

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BULLETIN

If you would like to place an announcement in the bulletin, please leave a message for Judy Mehlhaff by Friday of each week.



Watch the bulletin and website for more information on upcoming events and services.

Three ways to receive our newsletter:

1. View and download from church website.
2. Sign up to have it e-mailed to you.
3. Sign up to have it mailed to you.

To let us know how you would like to receive your newsletters, please sign the notebook in the narthex **OR** send us an email. Our email address is [friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:friedensreformedchurch@gmail.com).

## CONFIRMATION REFLECTIONS By Amy Brown

Confirmation is defined as the rite at which a baptized person, especially one baptized as an infant, affirms Christian belief and is admitted as a full member of the Church.

Do you remember your confirmation? Those who had Rev. Roemer as your minister probably have similar memories as myself. I remember attending confirmation on Saturday mornings. Rev. Roemer would have us write out the answers to that week's catechism questions. The examination in front of the church is definitely not easily forgotten. My catechism is marked with names next to the questions that each student would be asked during the examination. Then the first time of communion came. The anxiety of partaking in such a special ceremony and having wine for the first time are still fond memories.

This year's confirmation class joined the Salem Reformed Church confirmation class and Pastor Mike Hecht in Menno. Each week they would memorize the answers from the Heidelberg Catechism and would visit about the Bible and its importance. They also completed "My Confirmation Journal". The journal would ask questions relating to a variety of topics. Each student had to complete these questions as well as ask an adult member of our church to answer those questions. These questions were very thought provoking. As I filled out the journal, it gave me an opportunity to reflect on my faith, my knowledge, and my experience with confirmation. Listed below are a few of those questions.

### Lesson 1: Loving God

Why is confirmation important?  
What did you most enjoy about confirmation?  
What is the most important lesson you learned in confirmation?

### Lesson 2: Who is God?

Who is God? What is God like?  
Why can you trust God to care for you?

### Lesson 3: When you don't get what you deserve?

Is God a merciful God? What does mercy mean to you?  
When has God shown you mercy?

### Lesson 6: What is the Bible?

Why is the Bible important to you? Why should I read the Bible every day?  
What is your favorite Bible verse?

### Lesson 9: New Life in Christ

What does it mean to have new life in Christ?  
What are the benefits of having new life in Christ? (Read Psalm 103:1-5)

### Lesson 15: Why the Church?

Why is church membership important?  
What benefits have you received from being a member?  
What advice can you give to help a person be a more faithful church member?

### Lesson 19: Prayer Power

What is prayer? Why is prayer important?  
On a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being the best), how would you rate your 'prayer life'?

As you reflect on your confirmation and your faith, remember the feelings you had when being confirmed. Pray for our confirmands. Pray for our congregation as we have the responsibility to show these young people the ways to be true followers of God and faithful members of our church.

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

People from Friedens Reformed Church, First American Lutheran Church, and Hope Lutheran Church have picked the theme for this year's community VBS. A date has not been set. Stay tuned for more information.