



January 15, 2017

UCC web partner offering churches free websites to kick off 2017 !

In an effort to make online communication easier and more effective for every United Church of Christ congregation in 2017, the UCC's web partner, Ministry Designs, is giving away websites to every local church that needs one to kick off the New Year.

"It is our goal to help as many UCC churches with their websites as possible," said Tyler Rominger of Ministry Designs. "Our partnership has gone so well over the last couple of months and we've built so many amazing relationships that we wanted to completely eliminate the start-up cost and remove any barrier for other churches to get started with a great website."

In this absolutely free offer, which runs from January 1 through February 15, Ministry Designs is offering to help create a website for local churches using one of four designs created specifically for UCC congregations. That service, when sold to the public, usually costs \$1,000. Previously discounted to \$500 as part of the UCC Stillspeaking 2.0 Toolkit, for the next 45 days, there are no set up costs. To be clear, churches will still be responsible for a minimal monthly hosting fee of \$35, which also includes support, system updates, unlimited storage, unlimited pages, and unlimited emails.

Once the website is up, Ministry Designs' content management system can be revised directly by people at the church, users with little or no web experience. The company also provides churches with the knowledge and the tools to update and maintain their site. Churches interested in taking advantage of this offer, or looking for more information should check out the company's UCC page. They have four themes built specifically for the UCC, with 18 looks that work for any faith community. After February 15, the start-up costs revert to \$500.

For the company's UCC page go to : <http://ucc.ministrywebsitedesigns.com/>

Getting to Know :

Friedens UCC

337 Main St., Oley, PA 19547



Since 1830, the Friedens U.C.C. congregation has been seeking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the folks in the Oley Valley of Berks County. Heeding the teachings of our Reformed tradition, we want our children and their families to know that they

belong to their faithful Savior Jesus Christ.

A lively Sunday School recently produced a Christmas pageant entitled "Breaking News." Little ones dressed as cows and sheep joined shepherds, wise men and angels at the Bethlehem manger scene. A very active puppet ministry (God's Handiwork Gang) narrated the pageant before a receptive intergenerational congregation. A lovely Christmas luncheon followed worship where cast members and Sunday School teachers were congratulated.

Community families were recently invited to the Youth Group's Trunk or Treat event after the Oley Halloween Parade. A few weeks later an active Friedens youth group raised funds via the selling of cookie mix jars at the annual Bazaar.



The Friedens Choir sang at the ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service where five congregations gathered to give thanks. A wonderful day of celebration, involving puppets, choir members, and a busy, devoted congregation, ushered in the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey as the new pastor of Friedens on December 11.

Thousands of hoagies were made this year by Friedens volunteers, to support mission and youth events in the Oley Valley community. Friedens U.C.C. takes seriously the sovereignty of God, the Lordship of Christ, and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We belong to Jesus Christ in thought, word and deed.



Prayers are requested for Friedens UCC in Oley and Rev. Dr. Tyson Frey