

West Branch Friends

W.B.A.R.C.

When I first began attending and working at West Branch Friends, I kept hearing about WBARC and eventually learned it was an acronym that stood for West Branch Area Religious Council. As I began attending the monthly meetings with this group, it was evident the members who were all West Branch religious and community leaders, had a simple goal of doing good things for this community.

We planned events in the city park to bring the community together during times of division over failed bond issues, sponsored a workshop on suicide prevention, explored ways to help provide support for families in need, and often used donations to the group to help stranded interstate travelers, local families in need of food or living expenses, or any other need that arose. Because pastors in the group tend to move on, the 501c3 non-profit designation became dormant, and we have worked for two years to get all the paperwork the state requires to get us back in good standing as a non-profit group.

The past few months we have worked on updating our mission statement followed by the actions needed to fulfill the mission. The mission statement we arrived at says:

West Branch Area Religious Council is to foster interfaith connections in order to address needs as they arise in our communities.

Our action statements include:

- ***Leaders of congregations meet monthly September through May, and as needed.***
- ***We communicate the work of WBARC with our congregations.***
- ***We coordinate with our schools, law enforcement, and other agencies.***
- ***We organize community events.***
- ***We address emergency needs.***
- ***We maintain a checking account to meet these needs as they arise.***

So the next time you hear someone mention WBARC, you'll hopefully have a better understanding of the group and the good work we are trying to do!

Blessings, Pastor Sue



WBARC Members gathering for our monthly meeting. L to R: Jan Cretin, St. Bernadette; Cathy Steen, Police School Liaison; Kristi Franzoni, School Student and Family Services Coordinator; Momodu Kamara, Springdale Methodist; Chad Whaley, Bethany Lutheran; Connie Markle, West Branch Methodist, Judy Cottingham, W.B. Friends Conservative.



April Birthdays, Anniversaries And Upcoming Events

Anniversaries:

April 6: Bill and Hilda Bowers

Birthdays:

April 1: Corinda Wolfram

April 2: Bill Bowers

April 9: Hilda Bowers

April 9: Mark Alvarez

April 18: Jennifer Peck

April 20: Ben Wedeking

Upcoming Meeting Events (all pending due to virus concerns):

April 02: No Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00 PM

April 05: NO First Sunday Discussion Group, 9:30 AM

April 07: Ministry and Counsel (via ZOOM!, perhaps)

April 08: NO Choir practice

April 09: WBARC @ WBUMC

April 09: NO Crestview Service, 2 PM

April 12: EASTER! 10:30 AM (watch for e-mail about services)

April 14: Endowment Committee, 7 PM

April 19: Potluck and Monthly Meeting following worship

April 22: Bell choir practice

April 24: 4 PM...set up for Everything Sale

April 25: Everything Sale at WB Town Hall; 7:30AM -Noon

April 26: Special offering for WBF Love Offering

April 28: Stewardship Meeting, 7 PM

"We worshipped Jesus instead of following him on his same path. We made Jesus into a mere religion instead of a journey toward union with God and everything else. This shift made us into a religion of "belonging and believing" instead of a religion of transformation."

-Richard Rohr

Which West Branch Friend Am I

??????

My favorite food is: **Purt neer anything, especially what ever my lovely bride fixes for supper.**

The best book (other than the Bible) I ever read was:

**Death Be Not Proud by John Gunther, and
The Walking Drum by Louis L'Amore.**

My favorite hymn is: **"I'll Fly Away"**

I grew up in: **A little white house in the country**

I have **2 children**

My favorite color is: **Purple**

The scripture most meaningful to me is: **The Lord's Prayer.**

My favorite season is: **NOT WINTER**

My favorite thing about West Branch Friends Meeting is:

The PEOPLE, that I love and trust.

Who Am I?

(Answer at the end of the newsletter)

April 2020

WBFC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: Birthdays # Anniversaries *			1 Corinda Wolfram #	2 Bill Bowers #	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	6 Bill & Hilda Bowers *	7 <i>7:00 M&C**</i>	8 <i>No Handbells</i>	9 Hilda Bowers # Mark Alvarez # <i>2:00 Crestview**</i>	10	11
12 <i>Easter</i>	13	14 Jonathan English # <i>7:00 Endowment**</i>	15 <i>No Choir</i>	16	17	18 Jennifer Peck # Jens Lee #
19 Andrew English # <i>11:45 Potluck & Monthly Mtg**</i>	20 Ben Wedeking #	21	22	23	24 <i>4:00 pm - ??? Sale set-up**</i>	25 Marian Liljequist # <i>7:30 am - Noon Everything Sale**</i>
26 Special Offering for WBFC Love Fund	27	28 <i>7:00 Stewardship**</i>	29 <i>7:00 Handbells**</i>	30		

Gathering Music – 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship – 10:30 am

Prayer Group – Mondays 9:30 am at the Meetinghouse

****All meetings and events are tentatively scheduled or may be held electronically if possible.**



Roscoe's Ramblings, 2020 (from Pastor Sue)

It's with a bit of nostalgia that I share this last edition of Roscoe's Ramblings since I have shared all of his past writings (several repeated, as well, from the early 2000s), plus some recent interviews Roscoe has willingly shared with me. As his health continues to require more energy and oxygen for him, I am choosing not to tax him by asking any more interview questions.

It's been especially difficult these last few weeks with the Covid19 virus pandemic causing Crestview, where Roscoe has been living most of the past year, to be on lockdown for visitors. But I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each of you, who would like, to write a note of appreciation to Roscoe for his many gifts to this meeting, especially his writing this column for us to enjoy. A note to him would be a wonderful thing you could do to help him pass the time in isolation from friends and family. Here's his address to make it easy (and to save as a reminder):

*Roscoe Millett
Crestview Specialty Care
451 W. Orange Street
West Branch, IA 52358*

Our senior members have brought so much to our congregation down through the years, and I want to make sure I remember to always give them my thanks and appreciation to each of them. And, of course, Roscoe would always appreciate your prayers!

(And a final greeting from Roscoe:)

Happy Spring! RM



97 years young author Roscoe

Worship Helpers



April 5 (Palm Sunday)
On-line services only

April 12 (Easter – Services pending)

Greeter: none

Facing Bench: Gwen Senio

Special Music: None

Children's Message: Henry and Priscilla

Children's teacher: TBD

Pianist: Julie Tallman

Gathering music: John Yapp

April 19 (Services pending)

Greeter: Lisa Baum

Facing Bench: Ed English

Special Music: Volunteer?

Children's Message: Henry and Priscilla

Pianist: Jonny Stax

Gathering music: Volunteer?

April 26 (Services pending)

Greeter: Lyn Kane

Facing Bench: Maxine Koepp

Special Music: Volunteer?

Children's Message: TBD

Pianist: Gwen Senio

Gathering music: Volunteer?

Favorite Meeting Recipes

Peanut Butter Cookies

By Ed English

Ingredients:

1 Cup Butter
1 Cup Peanut Butter
1 Cup Sugar
1 Cup Brown Sugar
2 eggs
1 t. vanilla
2 ½ C. flour
1 ½ t. soda
½ t. salt

Cream butter, peanut butter, sugars, eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and shape into one-inch balls and roll in granulated sugar. Place 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet and press crisscross with fork times.

Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes; cool slightly and remove from pan.

A fun way to upgrade: Leave the cookies in ball shapes, bake at 375 for 8 minutes; remove from the oven and press a chocolate star or Hershey's kiss in the middle of the cookie until the sides crack. Bake for 2-5 minutes longer and let cool and remove.



Our Senior Friends

Roscoe Millett

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Marvin and Fran Fritz

Wayne and Nancy Stacks

Ed and Maria Denmead



Our seniors in worship:
Larry Reiner, Roscoe Millett,
Lois Semotan.

Those fighting Cancers:

Loren Hemingway (and his family)

Diane Painter

Others to keep prayer:

- Wade Bowers and family
- Justin Kane
- All those suffering from the Covid-19 virus and their families, as well as those who may have been exposed and have to spend time quarantined.
- Students who are home and need to be encouraged to keep learning while schools are closed.
- Mike Moyer, IAYM member from Oskaloosa, recovering from COVID-19

Joys we Share:

- Wade's seizures under control for now
- Many who have offered to help bring groceries and supplies during this
 - Covid-19 time
- Generic insulin now being made available for diabetics
- Victoria, foreign exchange student with the Torkelson/Denmead family who is safely back home in Norway.
- The ability to use the Zoom! Application to conduct worship services, yoga classes, meetings on-line, and just a variety of ways to stay connected with folks
- West Branch residents coming together to order food from the local restaurants to help them keep in business during this epidemic
- The creation of YouTube videos to reach out to people through music, talks, and church worship services.

IA. Yearly Meeting News

A Message from Iowa Yearly Meeting Superintendent Tom Showalter:

"As I ponder responses both personally and professionally, I would like to challenge you to remember who and Whose you are. In a time when people seem to be scared and unsure, we want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. Personally, with my daughter Grace's autoimmune health concerns, we will need to be extra cautious to assure that she does not get sick. Therefore, I am going to need to limit my travels so that I do not carry something home."

When we adopted our mission statement a couple years ago, it was to be a point of reference for all that we do: "The Body of IAYM exists to exalt Jesus Christ by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and expressing God's love by serving all people (John 15:1-17)." Pastors, continue to look for creative ways to make disciples and to serve the communities where you serve! Let's look for ways to be light in dark places (and dark times). I believe these are rare opportunities for the local church to show care for those in their communities. As I have often said during difficult times, God is still on His throne today!..."

The Church is more than the gathering on Sunday mornings. Now is the time for us to consider new ways to serve. By doing so, we "exalt Jesus by becoming fruitful disciple makers" and we "express God's love by serving all people."

Maybe you can open the building for people to come pray; call someone who is older or who has been ill and see if they have needs that you can meet; some are talking about online opportunities; or you can possibly contact people in your church to see how they are doing. Maybe you could set up your own Zoom account to do worship or prayer (only \$15.00 a month or a free account that is limited to a forty minute meeting), or Bible studies.

Be creative and allow this time to be a time of re-purposing in your local setting.

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Blessings,

Tom Showalter

Upcoming IAYM Events Calendar:

- April 4: **CQH Spring Work Day**
- April 25: **USFW Spring Fling @** Honey Creek New Providence
- May 16: **Camp Quaker Heights Cookie Day**
- **Summer Camp Dates:**
 - June 12-14 Little Fry
 - June 14-18 Middle School
 - June 19-24 High School
 - June 24-28 Elementary
- **Kaleo Academy:** June 14-20th at Barclay College. For more information, go to <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/>
- July 12-18, 2020: **FUM Triennial** in Kisumu, Kenya (<https://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/triennial>)
- August 8th: **USFW Celebration of Service & Kenyan Tea** at College Avenue

Prayer Needs within IAYM:

- Mike Moyer, Stewardship Board co-clerk and College Avenue member, is hospitalized and has tested positive for COVID-19. He is improving but still needs your prayer!
- Pray for Colin Saxton and for Kelly Kellum's dad who have both been sick but not reported to have COVID-19 at this time.
- Pray that this current situation concerning the virus will come to an end.
 - We pray for those who are older and others who have sickness that they will be kept from illness.
 - We pray that our eyes will see God's mighty hand at work in our midst!
- Remember **Nancy Bontempo**, pastor at Sturgeon Bay Friends. She has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She will be continuing treatment in the Chicago area (Cancer Treatment Center).
 - Nancy was informed that she will need no further chemotherapy, but will begin radiation treatments soon.
- **Grace Showalter**, daughter of superintendent Tom Showalter, is still being monitored for Lupus or other autoimmune disease. An appointment was scheduled for March 26 in Iowa City, but was cancelled due to the coronavirus responses.
- **Superintendent Tom Showalter** has a heart issue (A-Fib) which will require some treatment(s). A cardio version procedure has been scheduled for April 7. Thanks for your prayers!
- Pray for the health of **Mary Glen Hadley** (former missionary, pastor, and active participant in IAYM) as she battles cancer
- Pray for our **churches seeking pastoral candidates**
 - Marshalltown
 - Motor
 - Salem
 - College Ave
- Pray that Iowa Yearly Meeting would continue to **pursue the mission** that has been adopted
- Let us continue to collectively pray for **revival** in our midst
- ***Continue to pray for the people, churches, churches seeking pastoral candidates, pastors, boards, mission, and staff of Iowa Yearly Meeting!***

Keep Praying! God is hearing and answering our prayers.

F.U.M MISSION UPDATES



Basket making was one economic focus of the Turkana Mission in the 1970s.

If you're thinking ahead to Vacation Bible School, or programming for Quaker camps, or other summer fundraising efforts, keep in mind that our summer focus this year will be the Turkana Friends Mission. TFM is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, and we're looking forward to giving you materials on the history of the mission and how God has used it to bring hope and peace to the Turkana region.

IAYM Missions Board EASTER OFFERING Belize Friends School

Friends United Meeting's ministry in Belize includes a school for vulnerable youth, a growing Quaker church, and a community center! Nikki Holland, the Director of FUM Belize, shared this heartwarming story... In 2018, a student came to our school. I will call him Mike. Mike has some special educational needs, and when he arrived at our school, he did not know his alphabet, although he was a teenager. This past December, another student was struggling to read a verse in morning devotions--and Mike started to help his classmate! We all turned and stared at Mike, and Oscar, our pastor, asked Mike to read the whole verse over again. Mike read it without a hitch! We all stared, and then we started clapping and cheering! Mike can read now! And he can read well! We are proud of him, and we are proud of our teachers' brilliant and loving instruction to help him on this journey.

Belize Friends School gives young people in Belize a second chance to succeed at entering High school or Trade school and to be successful in life! One of the school's primary needs is funds to cover operating costs. These costs include salaries for our amazing staff, utilities, school supplies, etc. The IAYM Easter offering will help pay these tremendous staff members so that they can continue to teach our precious students and keep our facilities clean and safe. Without our teachers, we have no school! Your Easter gift will help keep our teachers here with us so that they can continue the life-changing work that they do every day. Thank you so very much. I am so grateful.

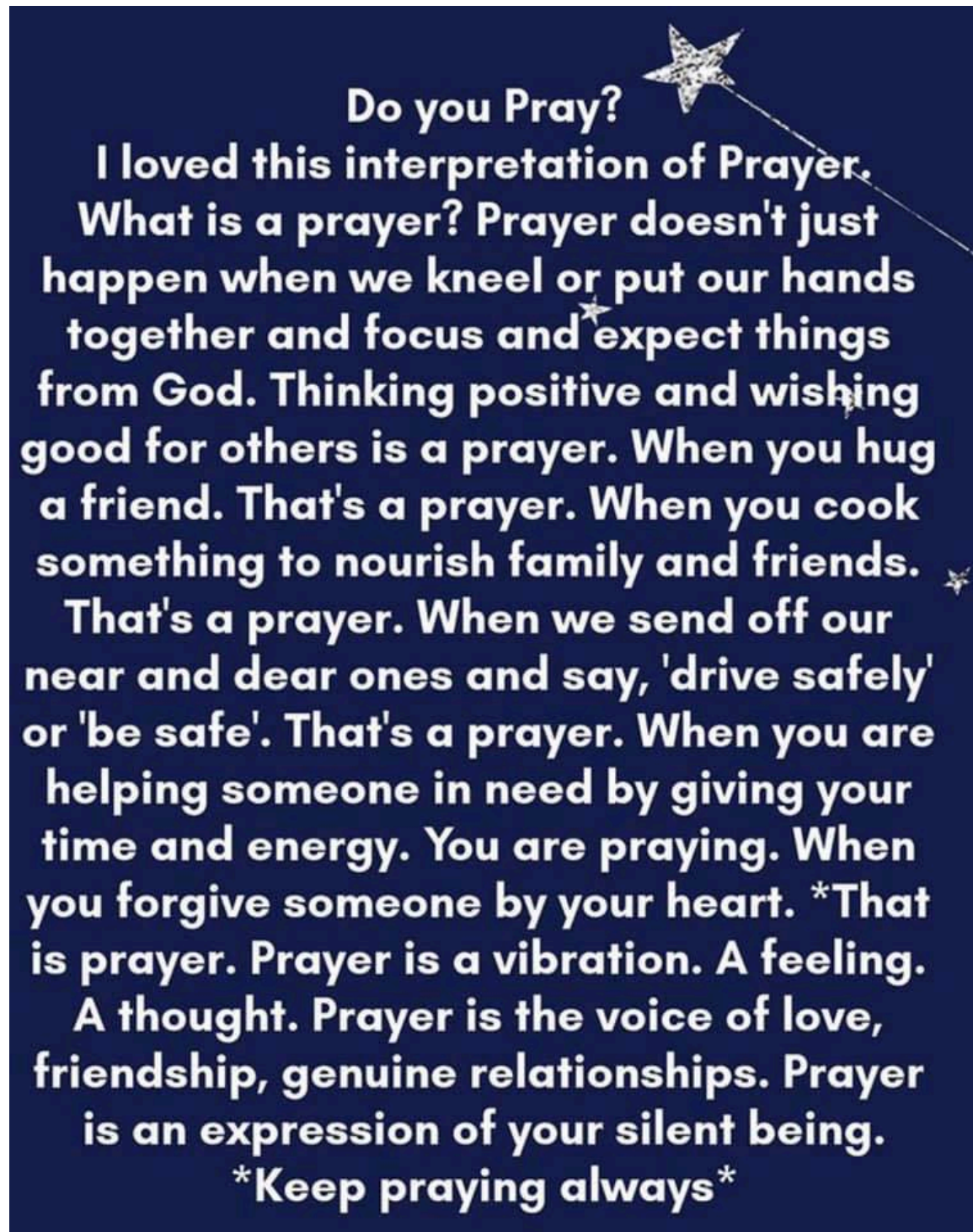
Nikki Holland,
Director of FUM Belize



*Belize Director Nikki
Holland and students
going virtual to
continue learning!*

Belize closed all schools, due to coronavirus, effective on Friday, March 20. A local cell phone company called Smart! generously partnered with Belize Friends School to loan out phones to every student, so that school could go virtual. More importantly, teachers will be able to stay in touch with students, and students will be able to stay in touch with each other. Here, Belize Friends Ministries Director Nikki Holland teaches students how to use the WhatsApp messaging service.

(In this time of virus uncertainty and the need for prayer, along with the value of ministering to all in need, I thought this message about prayer shared by our good friend and Friends Bringing Hope organizer Karen Bauer contained a ton of wisdom for all of us when it comes to prayer! SMC)



This month's mystery friend is Ed Starr!!