

West Branch Friends Meeting

December 2022

“Holy Disruptions”



A lead pastor I used to serve with had a saying she used frequently: “Ministry is in the interruptions.” We grew tired of hearing this so frequently, but she was right. Most of us begin our days with a to-do list: maybe not written on paper or digitally on some electronic device, but mentally, most of us have the things we want to accomplish this day in the forefront. And then...the interruptions begin. Phone calls, people stopping by unexpectedly, a request from a co-worker or supervisor that cannot wait and must be started Right. Now. But, honestly, looking back most days it is in these so-called “interruptions” that true ministry occurred: in the phone call from someone desperate, (or someone celebrating!) in the encounter in the alley while settling a parking dispute, in the homeless man who appeared at the door seeking assistance. God was always mightily present in each of these moments and reminded me that as much I like to think I set the agenda, this is simply not true. When I am open to God’s movement in my life — in my literal day-to-day moments — amazing things happen.

I’m trying to spend this Advent and Christmas season looking for the Holy in the things I first perceive to be “getting in the way”. I hope you’ll join me as we spend time together in worship looking at our world and our lives through this lens.

One of the first “holy disruptions” I’ve experienced this season is having surgery and trying to follow doctor’s orders during my recovery period. I am “back at work” as of today — although still moving more slowly than usual. I thank you all so much for your prayers, your support, your gifts, your patience through this period. It has been such a holy moment of prayer, thanksgiving, rest, and rejuvenation and I thank you all from all the corners of my heart. I am looking forward to examining some other disruptions together with you as we journey toward the birth of Jesus in our lives and hearts again this year.

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

December Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays

December 4: Matt Scott

Liberty English

December 6: Tanya English

December 12: Kathleen Darling

Larry Reiner

December 16: Ben Clark

December 19: Dusti Cermak

December 24: Doug Rasmussen

December 25: Katy Meren-Fuchtman

December 29: Jane Cadwallader Howe

Anniversaries

December 26: Ed & Tanya English



Upcoming Events

*NO Committee Meetings this month

December 2: Christmas Bell Concert 7:00 pm

December 3: Community Free Breakfast

8:30 am

December 4: Coffee & Listening Session

9:00 am

December 18: Christmas Program & Soup

Supper 5:00 pm

December 24: Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

December 25: Christmas Day Worship 10:30

am — Special Offering for Love Fund

Gathering₂ Music each Sunday 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am

Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am

December Worship

Your Gifts are Needed!

Servants

December 4

Greeter: Allan Winder

Zoom Host: Teresa Winder

Special Music:

Children's Message:

Piano: Julie Tallman

December 11

Greeter: Gordon Edgar

Zoom Host: Dick Hinkhouse

Special Music:

Children's Message: Kathleen Darling

Piano: Gwen Senio

December 18

Greeter:

Zoom Host: Jim Glasson

Special Music:

Children's Message: Sue McCracken

Piano: Julie Tallman

December 25

Greeter:

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message: Joan Blundall

Piano: Gwen Senio

We have a great group of kids in our meeting — both in the room and on Zoom. They're looking for fun adults to hang out with during Children's Church each Sunday morning.

Each Sunday, after children's message in meeting for worship, the kids head downstairs for a lesson and our kids on Zoom login to join them. We have a fun and interesting curriculum that the kids enjoy — in fact, often our kids lead the discussion!

Could you be that adult who fosters an open, safe, sharing environment for our kids? Could you be that cool adult who knows that hanging out with our kids is the best place to be?

Children's Church begins September 11 and continues through the school year. Please prayerfully consider learning with our kids at least one Sunday this year. Contact Hilda Bowers for details!

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Fran Fritz

Nancy Stax

Maria Denmead

Mildred Torkelson

Darlene Baum

Pat Bradley

Sheila Tallman

Joys & Blessings

Suzanne and Tom's engagement

Bill Bowers built a puppet theater for Sue (and Priscilla and Henry!) to use in meeting — a welcome addition to our worship. Thanks, Bill!

The return of the Community Breakfast hosted by our meeting during the Christmas Past celebrations.

Members of the meeting sharing their gifts in worship in a variety of ways, through music, bringing a message, greeting, and hosting Zoom.

The Ecumenical World Prayer Cycle for December

November 27-December 3: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

December 4-December 10: Myanmar, Thailand

December 11-December 17: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

December 18-December 24: TBA

December 25-December 31: TBA

Glory to God ... and Peace on Earth

Call to Prayer *Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will!*

ALL: *Amen!*

Leader: *O God, come to our assistance*

ALL: *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Leader: *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.*

ALL: *As it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be world without end. Amen.*

Hymn *"Angels We Have Heard on High" (verses 1, 4)*

Verses



Requests for Prayer

Anita's cousin Carly and her children who lost everything in a house fire.

Diane, recovering from Covid and continuing treatment

Diane's nephew Erik

Carolyn and her partner Chris upon the death of Chris' father

Our new friend, Bob Bark, and all those who feel alone

For all those who are facing the loss of a beloved pet

For all those experiencing their first holidays/birthdays, etc. without loved ones

For all those struggling with mental health

For the on-going gun violence in our nation