

West Branch Friends Meeting

April 2024

“Springing Into Spring”



I have been spending time learning with Mary DeJong, founder of the group, The Waymarkers in the practice of “re-wilding”. This practice is a prayerful, sacred way of marking the seasons of the year and what is happening all around me in my own bioregion and homescape. It is the practice of noticing — plants, animals, climate, changes... it is the practice of connection to the nature in the place where I have chosen to put down my own roots. It is a practice of Earth-Centered Spirituality that has really been bringing me to new life. This month, the month of true greening and change; the month of Earth Day observances and celebrations, I thought I would share a few reflection questions for Spring which Mary has shared with me.

- ♦ What is a desire you carry into this Spring season? How many longings can you give language to that capture the essence of that which you seek? What is peeking through your soul-scape, much like a crocus poking through the warming soil? What is growing? What is emerging? What feels new and inspired in you?
- ♦ What seasonal shifts do you notice in your bioregion?
- ♦ How are the wildlife behaving in your homescape?
- ♦ What is lengthening in you this Spring? What is emerging in fresh and new ways?
- ♦ Who do you notice? Sink deep into your senses and even into the spring time soil. Who is present within this warming Spring-time earth? How do the lengthening rays of Spring sun hit your earth?
- ♦ Plant a seed in a small clear votive candle holder or a small jar, fill it with rich soil, place it in an east-facing window. Watch it grow. Notice it.
- ♦ *Sacred Sit Spot* — Find one place in your natural world that you visit all the time and get to know it as your best friend. Find a spot near water, shelter, and food for wildlife that you can get to easily and often without damage to a fragile landscape and with little danger of predators or other hazards. Let this be a place where you learn to sit still — alone, often, and quietly. This will become your place of intimate connection with nature. **And if mobility is an issue for you, pick a window in your home and observe the nature immediately outside it.

And by the way...

...if you're interested in nature, your environment (both inside and outside) and being a part of creation care... do I have an opportunity for you! Join us for our annual Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 am at the meetinghouse. See you there!

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

It's time for...

The Everything Sale!!

What's the everything sale? An annual fundraiser where we sell truly EVERYTHING — plants, household items, clothing, toys, furniture, and great food by the Possum Holler folks. The sale takes place at the WB Town Hall on April 27.

How can YOU be a part of this? I'm glad you asked!

- ♦ Donate items for the sale
- ♦ Help set up the space on Friday, April 26 at 5:00 pm
- ♦ Help at the sale on Saturday, April 27 from 7:30 am — Noon
- ♦ Buy things!
- ♦ Questions? Contact Gwen Senio to get on board for this fun event!



New Association of Friends Spring Business Meeting

Have you ever wondered how Yearly Meetings work? Would you like to connect with other monthly meetings and Quakers from all over the area? Are you interested in learning more about the dreams and visions of our Yearly Meeting? What are the issues before us that we would like to address?

If you have ever considered even ONE of these questions... we have the answer!

Join us for the New Association of Friends (our Yearly Meeting) Spring Business Meeting on April 28 at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in Richmond, Indiana, but also on Zoom. It's a great chance to meet new folks and get involved in the business of our Yearly Meeting. Contact Chris or Gwen for the Zoom link.

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Darlene Baum

Pat Bradley

Maria Denmead

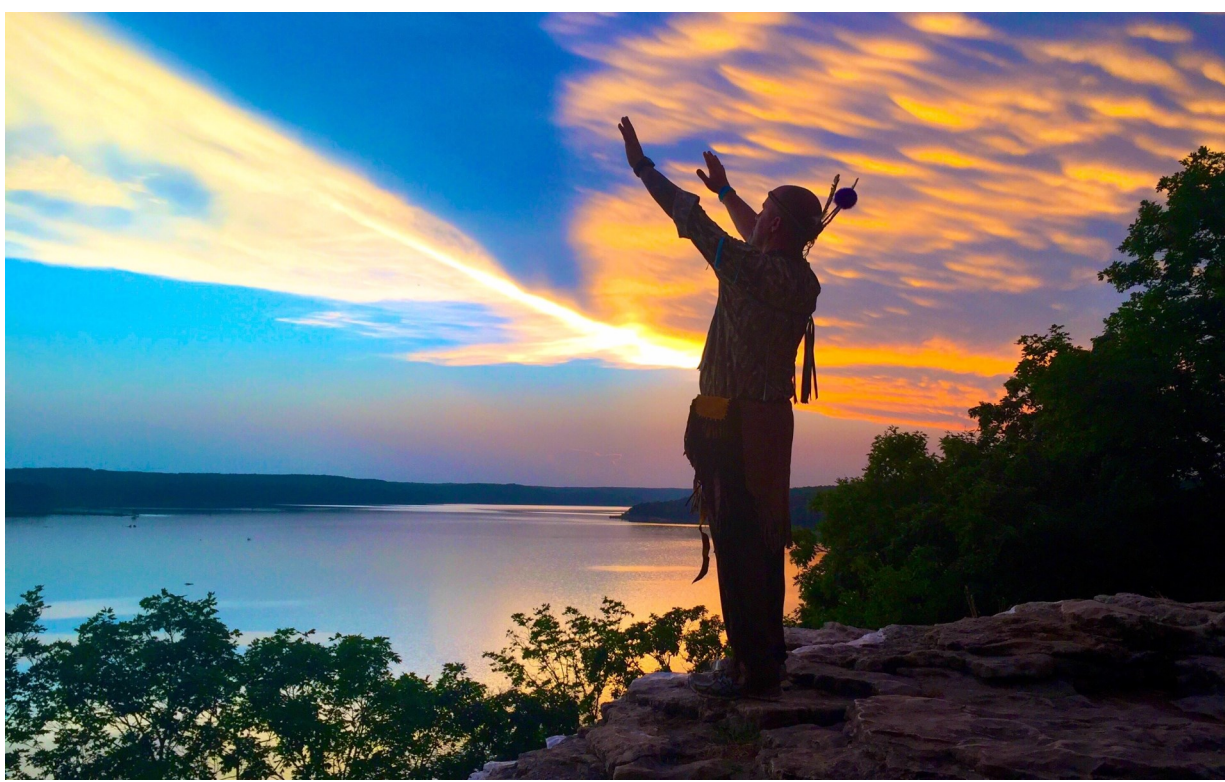
Fran Fritz

Donna Mortenson

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Nancy Stax



A Prayer for April

Almighty God, thank you
for the abundance of
happiness we find in your
presence. At the beginning
of this wonderful month, I
pray that you will bless me
and fill my life with
pleasant surprises. Please
lead me to greater heights
in my relationship with you
and continue to direct my
footsteps. Amen.



PRAY FOR EVERYTHING

Joys & Concerns

Joan, recovering at home after a stay at Iowa Rehab

Lyn, awaiting appointment with liver specialist

Lois, who is entering hospice care

Diane, as she continues treatment

Allan, as he continues treatment

Raghu as he deals with health issues

Elaine's friend Kevin

Eddie and Anita as they limit outside contact and follow protocols as Eddie's body adapts to his new kidney

The people of Israel and Gaza as war continues

The people of Ukraine and Russia as war continues

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for April

March 31-April 6: The Balkans: Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia

April 7-13: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

April 14-20: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine

April 21-27: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

April 28-May 4: Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan



April Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays

April 1: Corinda Wolfram

April 2: Bill Bowers

April 6: Chris Humrichouse

April 9: Hilda Bowers

Mark Alvarez

April 17 Nora Mae Scott

April 18: Jennifer Peck

April 20: Ben Wedeking

Anniversaries

April 2: Bill & Hilda Bowers

April 11: Greg & Chris Humrichouse

Upcoming Events

April 2: M&C 7:00 pm

April 6: Spring Clean-up Day 9:00 am

April 7: Pulpit Exchange: Geery Howe brings the message

April 9: Endowment 7:00 pm

April 12-16: Pastor Chris on vacation

April 14: Sue McCracken brings the message

April 20: USFW Spring Fling @ Camp Quaker Heights

April 21: Potluck & Monthly Meeting 11:45

April 23: Stewardship 7:00 pm

April 26: Sale Set-up WB Town Hall 5:00 pm

April 27: Everything Sale! 7:30-Noon Town Hall

April 28: Special Offering for Love Fund

NAoF Spring Business Mtg. 3:00 pm

Gathering Music each Sunday 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am

Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am