

West Branch Friends Meeting

November 2023

“SPICES”

I’ve been working with a lovely little book called “A Quaker Cupboard”. It has inspired me to spend some time with our Quaker testimonies, especially in light of this month’s themes of Thanksgiving and abundance. This month I would like to work with the testimony of Stewardship — both caring for one another and caring for the earth (which in my mind are the same!). I will share a couple of quotes on the testimony (Friendly Voices on Stewardship) and end with a couple of queries for us to consider for the month.



I would love to hear your thoughts on these queries! What do they bring up for you? Let’s start an email thread, or a group chat space where we can share with one another our thoughts on stewardship.

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

“To be informed, ask the animals; learn from the birds of the air; speak to the Earth—it has lessons to teach; the fishes of the sea will tell all” — Job

“If there is any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not deter or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. — William Penn

Queries

Do we regard our time, talents, energy, money, material possessions and other resources as gifts from God, to be held in trust and shared according to the Light we are given? (Baltimore Yearly Meeting)

Do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources? (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting)

As a Christian steward, do you treat the earth with respect and with a sense of God’s splendor in creation, guarding it against abuse by greed, misapplied technology, or your own carelessness? (Northwest Yearly Meeting)

How am I helping to develop a social, economic, and political system which will nurture an environment which sustains and enriches life for all? (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting)

Volunteer Opportunities in Our Area

West Branch Friends Church — Christmas Past Breakfast

Each year, we hold a free community breakfast at the meetinghouse as part of the West Branch Christmas Past celebration. This year, we will be hosting the breakfast from 10:00 am-Noon, so that folks may go from the breakfast straight to other activities in town without delay. We will need chefs and servers for this event. Sign up at the meetinghouse or by contacting Pastor Chris at dea-conchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org



West Branch Public Library has a variety of volunteer tasks available and a wide variety of hours. Contact Becky Knoche at 319-643-2633 or stop by for an application and a description of duties.

CommUnity Crisis Services Iowa City

Volunteer Opportunities: Food Bank Volunteer, Mobile Pantry Volunteer, Grocery Delivery Driver
Contact: 319-351-2726 to get connected to your next opportunity for service!

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Darlene Baum

Pat Bradley

Maria Denmead

Fran Fritz

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Nancy Stax

Mildred Torkelson



Joys & Blessings

Beautiful music in worship

New visitors in worship

Everyone involved in this year's high school musical

Eddie can now go to UIHC for dialysis is on the national transplant/donor list

Requests for Prayer

The people of the Middle East

The people of Ukraine and Russia as war continues

Gun violence/mass shootings in this country

Prayers for Diane as new cancer cells have been discovered in her brain, requiring radiation treatment in addition to chemo. She is also battling an infection and pneumonia and is in need of surgery for a new port.

Prayers for Erick's wellbeing as Diane goes through this new diagnosis/treatment

The Ecumenical World Prayer Cycle for November

October 29-November 4: Canada, United States of America

November 5-November 11: Oceania— American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia (Maohi Nui), Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

November 12-18: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

November 19-25: East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

November 26-Dec. 2: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

November Worship Servants

November 5

Greeter: Gordon

Zoom Host: Max

Special Music:

Children's Message: Hilda

Piano: Julie

November 12

Greeter: Gordon

Zoom Host: Dick

Special Music:

Children's Message:

Piano: Gwen

November 19

Greeter: Lyn

Zoom Host: Teresa

Special Music:

Children's Message: Joan

Piano: Julie

November 26

Greeter:

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message:

Piano: Gwen



November Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays

November 4: Isaac Scott

November 5: Peter Espensen

November 7: Si'Iva Senio

November 10: Theresa Arn

November 13: Anji Hinkhouse

November 14: Ruthie Tippin

November 15: Linzee Espensen

November 16: Camila Meren-
Fuchtman

November 19: Tyler Cermak

November 20: Mike Torkelson

November 21: Alisha Jeddelloh

Brock Cecil

November 27: Maxine Koepp

Malia Senio

November 30: Grace Alvarez

Upcoming Events

November 7: Election Day

November 9: M&C 7 pm (moved due to Election Day)

November 19: Potluck & Monthly Meeting for Business 11:45 am

November 23: Happy Thanksgiving!

November 26: Special Offering for Community Crisis Center

November 28: Stewardship/Endowment 7 pm

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

December 2: Free Community Brunch **10:00-12:00** (this is a time change for our breakfast offered as part of our community Christmas Past celebration)

Gathering Music each Sunday 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am

Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am