

*West Branch  
Friends  
November, 2019*

*“The Trouble with Thanksgiving”*



QuotesIdeas.com

I have left this opening message until the last piece of this newsletter because, in all honesty, I sometimes think there are some troubling aspects of this holiday. Here are some of my reasons why Thanksgiving bothers me just a bit!

- If you go in any store from now until November 27<sup>th</sup>, you won't see much of anything about giving thanks, just many, many, Christmas displays and festive decorations.
- Thanksgiving, for many, is not as much about being thankful as it is about eating copious amounts of food, or watching football games. Even though it may include doing something for others, like helping serve meals to those who have nowhere special to go that day (which is very nice), but it's also a feel-good activity for the person working, not so much about giving thanks.
- It's celebrated because it's a day (or even two) of vacation from work; maybe even a four-day chance for a quick trip.
- School children, often in one of their first years in elementary grades, dress up like either "Pilgrims or Indians" and eat special school lunches that often include yummy treats like cinnamon rolls and ice cream. I'm sure the fact that over half of the Pilgrims didn't survive their first winter in Plymouth (so the feast that was prepared by the natives was truly a time of great thanks) was never discussed at the reenactment of the "first Thanksgiving".
- And finally, why don't we practice giving thanks each and every day by making a list – either on paper or mentally – of all our blessings for which we are thankful? For me, that would be a real Thanksgiving.

Having said all that, I do want to call your attention to the graphic at the top, because on this 2019 Thanksgiving holiday, I DO count each of you twice as my blessings. Each of you is unique and brings special reasons for my thankfulness, each and every day!

Peace and Blessings, Pastor Sue



## November Birthdays, Anniversaries And Upcoming Events

### Anniversaries

November 19: Tim and Donna Behlke

### Birthdays:

November 5: Peter Espensen  
November 7: Si'iva Senio  
November 10: Theresa Arn  
November 10: Baylee Piegors  
November 13: Anji Hinkhouse  
November 15: Linzee Espensen  
November 16: Camila Meren Fuchtman  
November 19: Tyler Cermak  
November 20: Mike Torkelson  
November 27: Maxine Koepp  
November 27: Malia Senio

### November Events at West Branch Friends:

November 3: 9:30 Discussion Group (Max Koepp leads); Set clocks back  
November 5: Ministry and Counsel, 7 PM  
November 6: Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM  
November 13: Bell Choir rehearsal, 7:00 PM  
November 13: Endowment Committee, 7 PM  
November 14: Crestview Ministry, 2:00 PM  
November 17: Monthly Meeting following carry in lunch after worship  
November 20: Choir rehearsal, 7:30 PM  
November 24: Special offering for CommUnity  
November 26: Stewardship Committee, 7 PM  
November 28: THANKSGIVING!

# Which West Branch Friend Am I

## ???????

My favorite food is: *KFC cole slaw!*

The best book (other than the Bible) I ever read was: *A Wrinkle in Time*

My favorite hymn is: *“In the Garden”*

I grew up in: *Davenport, Iowa*

I have *1* child.

My favorite color is: *Red*

The scripture most meaningful to me is: *The Book of Ruth*

My favorite season is: *Autumn*

My favorite thing about West Branch Friends Meeting is:  
*The peace and love I feel when we gather for worship.*

Who Am I?

*(See the answer to this month’s mystery friend at the end of this newsletter.)*

# Caring Calendar

## November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>KEY:</b> Birthdays # Anniversaries *					1 Bill & Hilda Bowers	2 Michael Conner
3 <i>Set clocks back</i> Gordon Edgar 9:30 Discussion	4 Denise Lee #	5 Peter Espensen # 7:00 M&C	6 Stan Hinkhouse 7:30 Choir	7 Si'iva Senio #	8 Ruth & Jim Blayer	9 Jim Glasson & Kathleen Darling
10 Theresa Am # Baylee Plegors #	11 Roscoe Millett	12 Lois Semotan	13 Anji Hinkhouse # 7:00 Handbells	14 Ruthie Tippin # 2:00 Crestview	15 Linzee Espensen #	16 Camila Meren Fuchtmann #
17 Lyn Kane 11:45 Potluck and Monthly Meeting	18 Larry Reiner	19 Tyler Cermak # Tim & Donna Behlike *	20 Mike Torkelson # 7:30 Choir	21 Diane Painter	22 Eddie & Anita Starr	23 Jonny Stax & Scott Bradley
24 Sue McCracken Special Offering for CommUnity	25 Julie Tallman	26 Regina Cosco 7:00 Stewardship	27 Maxine Koepp # Malia Senio #	28 <i>Thanksgiving</i> Allan & Teresa Winder	29 John Yapp	30 Elaine Wedeking

**Gathering Music – 10:20 am**

**Meeting for Worship – 10:30 am**

**Prayer Group – Mondays 9:30 am at the Meetinghouse**



“There is always, always something to be thankful for.”

## ***Roscoe's Ramblings***

### ***An interview with Roscoe, 10-14-19***

Tell us a little about the machinery when you first started farming:

*"I can remember when we used to cultivate corn with a team of horses and a one-row cultivator. One horse on each side of the row of corn. Some people had a two-row cultivator, but we never had that much corn. You couldn't cultivate much corn with a one-row cultivator, but that's how we did it.*

*"So in 1941 we went modern and bought a John Deere A tractor at a farm sale, and with it came a two bottom plow and a two-row cultivator. My Dad had a two-row horse drawn corn planter for many years, and that's what we planted corn with until we eventually went to – of all things – a FOUR-row corn planter! At that point you could cultivate with either a two or four row cultivator."*

How did you plant corn?

*"Along about then we stopped using a wire to plant the corn with. A corn planter wire strung along a row had a button every 42 inches that would go through a Y attachment on the planter and trip a seed that was on a plate holding the seeds. The plate had a hole in it that the corn would drop through. Some plates had the holes large enough to drop two or three kernels instead of just one, which would give you two or three stalks as opposed to just one. The kernels would fall in the seed furrow that was created by the 'shoe' on the front of the planter. The planter had two tapered wheels that followed, moving the soil over the dropped seeds.*

*"Then progress took place and we started planting on the contour (rows going around the hills rather than up and down) and we couldn't use wires to drop the seeds. So planters were made to somehow drop the seeds at the right spacing, even as close as every 6 inches. We used the same plates to plant the soybeans, but you had to use a different plate because the beans were a different size than the corn."*



*97 years young author Roscoe*

***(Continued on the next page)***

Talk about harvesting corn: *“I started hand-picking corn alongside a wagon pulled by horses. The wagon had a bank board on the opposite side I was walking on. If you heard the ear hit the board, you knew the ear was going in the wagon; picking a hundred bushels of ear corn a day by hand, one ear at a time, was a good day’s work!*

*“ I worked for a neighbor and I think only one day I got close to 100 bushel a day. By the time I went over to the neighbors before daylight, got the horses hitched up and taken to the field, there wasn’t always much daylight left at the end of the shorter days in November. Of course we put the corn in a wire crib so the corn could breathe. I don’t think we ever had any corn spoil until we started shelling the corn.*

Where there any corn husking contests?

*“Oh yes! We used to have corn husking contests – even our pastor, Taylor Guthrie (Doris Hinkhouse’s dad), and Doris’ husband, Herb, were both in some contests. There would be maybe a dozen teams of horses and wagons and they would time them, and then weigh the ears on scales. Then they would be judged on how clean they got the husks off the ears, and the weight of the corn to determine the winners.*

Was there any field work done after the harvest was finished?

*“No, because after the harvest was finished (often still going on at Thanksgiving) there was very little field work done because we would turn the hogs and cattle out to salvage any leftover corn in the fields.*

*“Harvesting corn nowadays is way past me. I just can’t imagine farming now with GPS. I’m just afraid I would wreck a \$350,000 piece of equipment!*

*Blessings,  
Roscoe*



# *November Worship Team Volunteers*



## November 3 Roger Wolsey, Guest Speaker

Greeter: Julie Tallman  
Facing Bench: Jim Glasson  
Special Music: Volunteer?  
Children's Message: Gwen Senio  
Children's Church teacher: Micheala Wolfram  
Pianist: Gwen Senio  
Gathering music: Jim Glasson

## November 10

Greeter: Lyn Kane  
Facing Bench: Maxine Koepp  
Special Music: Choir  
Children's Message: Volunteer?  
Children's Church teacher:  
Pianist: Julie Tallman  
Gathering music: John Yapp

## November 17

Greeter: Carolyn Hansen  
Facing Bench: Tanya English  
Special Music: Bell Choir  
Children's Message: Tanya English  
Children's Church teacher: Gwen Senio  
Pianist: Jonny Stax  
Gathering music: Volunteer?

## November 24

Greeter: Allan Winder  
Facing Bench: Teresa Winder  
Special Music: Choir  
Children's Message: Henry and Priscilla  
Children's Church teacher:  
Pianist: Gwen Senio  
Gathering music: Volunteer?

***Favorite Meeting Recipes***  
***Ginger Braised Salmon Steaks***  
***From the Kitchen of Elaine Wedeking***

*2-4 small salmon fillets, 4-6 oz. each*

*1/4 c. soy sauce (I use low sodium, which seems plenty salty enough)*

*1 T. brown sugar*

*2 T. dry sherry*

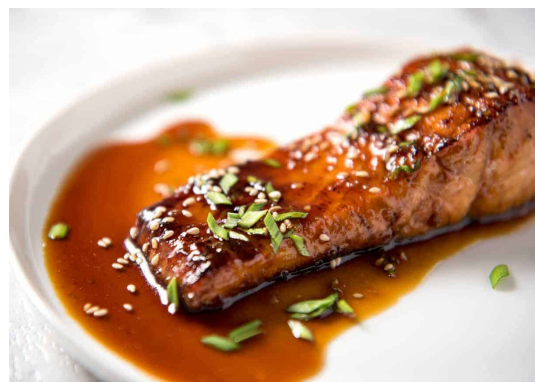
*1/2 t. dry mustard*

*1/2 t. ground ginger (or use fresh, if you have it: 3/4 t., grated)*

*White pepper to taste, I tend to be generous*

*Mix all ingredients except salmon, and add the resulting marinade to the fillets, skin side up, in a shallow baking dish for an hour (if you have the time). Bake (in marinade) skin side up at 400 degrees for 10 minutes. Turn fillets and bake for another 10 minutes. Drizzle marinade over before serving. I have a small casserole dish I can use for one serving. I use a Corningware loaf pan if I am cooking a larger piece of fish.*

*I usually make roasted veggies and a salad to go with this. Or a baked sweet potato.*





## **Keeping in Prayer**

### **Our Senior Friends**

Roscoe Millett

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Marvin and Fran Fritz

Wayne and Nancy Stacks

Ed and Maria Denmead

Darlene Baum



Our seniors in worship, including our prayer warrior from the past, Doris Hinkhouse.

### **Other Concerns**

- All who have been recently diagnosed with cancer, those currently in treatment, and those in remission.
- The families who have lost loved ones to a variety of illnesses and tragic deaths.
- All who will be traveling for Thanksgiving gatherings with family.

### **Praise Notes:**

- We are excited to have Roger Wolsey, author of Kissing Fish: Christianity for People Who Don't Much Care for Christianity join us to bring the message on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Iva Senio playing varsity volleyball as a FRESHMAN! (She can really spike the ball!)
- Micheala Wolfram getting the Christian Ed. Committee into the 21<sup>st</sup> century for children's church teaching sign-ups on Googledocs!
- Allan Winder discovering there is something to like about polka music!
- Healing of loved ones.
- Bountiful fall harvest for many of our farmers.
- Mike's nephew returning to the family after an unexplained absence.
- A number of fall visitors for worship.

***“Prayer in action is love; Love in action is service.”***

***-Mother Teresa***

# IA.Y.M. News

## Upcoming Yearly Meeting Events

- November 2: **All-Boards Retreat**
- January 25, 2020: **BOC Zoom Meeting**
- Feb 22, 2020: **Quaker Men's Winter Banquet** with Van Harden (from WHO radio) as speaker
- March 28: **Spring Body Meeting @ Grinnell Friends**
- March 30-April 3: **Beane Lecture & Pastor's Short Course**

## Prayer Requests

- **Grace Showalter**, daughter of superintendent Tom Showalter, was recently found having a very low blood platelet count. Normal is 150,000-400,000. Hers began at 5,000:
  - **9-3-19 Update:** Grace's numbers dropped and are currently at 15,000. Prayers would be appreciated an appointment on 9-5 at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital!
  - **10-9-19 Update:** Grace's numbers are at 197,000 (Thanks for your prayers). However, she recently developed a blood clot and the doctors are now looking at a diagnosis of APS (<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/antiphospholipid-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20355831>)
- 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).
- Pray for **Patrick Muganda and his wife, Silira**, as they adjust to life in the States after moving from Africa. They will be leading our International Friends Church in Minneapolis, MN.
- Pray for **Paul Martin**, pastor at Riverside Friends in Mason City, IA as he recovers from broken bones in his foot.

### **Iowa Yearly Meeting Office Hours:**

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

9 am - 3 pm

Wednesday 9 am - 2:30 pm; Friday: 9 am - noon

# F.U.M. MISSION NEWS



## Hello, Friends!

It's the beginning of October already! I can hardly believe it! We've been in Belize nearly two months, and WOW has a lot happened!

My first week on the job started with a bang! We hired a teaching principal – Mr Frank Tench – and a teacher – Miss Patricia Welch. We found a vehicle and a house (though it was another 2 weeks before we could move in – our move even involved a trip to Mexico!). We also got the kids all ready for school! It was such a wonderfully marvelous thing for my children that they were able to start the school year with all their classmates – THANK YOU!

Things haven't really slowed down since then! Each week things change as our staff settles in to the work of the season. This is a really exciting time to be a part of Belize Friends Center, and I'm so grateful to be here.

One of my primary goals in these early months is to establish good relationships with the staff here. To that end, I have spent a lot of my time listening to my coworkers. We have meetings or we chat over a meal. I sit in the office with Maggie or I attend Oscar's Religion class. I greet the students every morning or I attend the school board meeting. I spend a huge amount of time listening, and I have to tell you – this has been a great pleasure. The people staffing the School, Church and Center are remarkable. These people are dedicated and committed to seeking the good of this neighborhood. They are hardworking and creative. It is a lot of fun to work with them.

A weekly routine seems to be developing for me. In the mornings around 7:30, I bring my kids to school, and then I go to work. I attend the daily Religion class with Oscar and the students. Then I check in with some staff (especially Miss Maggie, the glue of the Center, AKA our Administrative Assistant). I do some computer work or have meetings in the mornings, and then in the middle of the day or the afternoon, I run errands or have meetings. Then around 3, I leave work and pick up my kids. At home I might work some more, or help with unpacking, or do seminary homework.

On Saturdays I do more homework, and on Sundays we worship with Belize Friends Church. Usually we meet in the Dale Graves Memorial Hall, the meeting room at the Center. This past Sunday, a member of our church brought us to her house on St George's Caye and we had an unusual and gorgeous day of worship and fellowship (which included fried chicken and cold watermelon and swimming in the Caribbean Sea!). After church, I do extremely restful activities like nap or watch a movie or read fiction. I have an intense and full schedule, but it is filled with many good things. I try very hard to stop all kinds of work by 9 in the evening so that I can get good rest – being healthy throughout this year – my first of this job and my last of seminary – is a big priority for me! Haha!

The whole staff team  
(from left to right):  
Oscar Mmbali, pastor;  
Patricia Welch,  
teacher; Adrian Bishop,  
living letters volunteer;  
me; Frank Tench,  
principal; Rosalie  
Dance, living letters  
volunteer; and Maggie  
Tench, administrative



# **WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES**

**Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Christian Farmer and Director of the Tent of Nations, speaks in Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois in November 2019.**

**The Tent of Nations**, located on the Nassar family's 100-acre farm and orchard outside of Bethlehem in the West Bank, has become an international peace center attracting thousands of visitors annually. International visitors, including many Israelis, join together to plant trees, harvest olives and fruit, teach at the Women's Education Center, lead activities in Summer Children's Camps, and work together in pursuit of a just peace through non-violent action. Daoud will share his story in Iowa on the dates, times and places shown below. **Please join us.**

**Thursday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Luther College**

**Recital Hall - Center for Faith and Learning**

700 College Drive; Decorah, IA 52101

**Friday, November 8, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Wartburg College**

**The Castle Room in Saemann Student Center**

100 Wartburg Boulevard; Waverly, IA 50677

**Saturday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.**

Location: **Bethesda Lutheran Church - The Commons**

1517 Northwestern Ave; Ames, IA 50010

Contact [christiarts@gmail.com](mailto:christiarts@gmail.com) to RSVP for lunch

**Sunday, November 10, 9:00 a.m.**

Location: **St. John's Lutheran Church**

**Neumann Hall**

600 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Des Moines, IA 50309

**Sunday, November 10, 3:00 p.m.**

Location: **Drake University**

**Meredith Hall Room 101**

2805 University Avenue; Des Moines, Iowa 50311

**Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **St. Timothy's Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**Worship Center**

510 N. 9th Street; Omaha, NE 68114

**Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Morningside College**

**Buhler Rohlfs Hall (Weikert Auditorium)**

3777 Garretson Avenue; Sioux City, IA 55106

Free parking in Grace United Methodist Church lot.



**Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **Waldorf University**

**Borman Fine Arts Center**

225 John K. Hanson Drive; Forest City, IA 50436

**Thursday, November 14, 7:00 p.m.**

Location: **St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**

140 Gathering Place Lane; Iowa City, IA 52246

**Friday, November 15, 10:00 a.m.**

Location: **Augustana College**

**Gerber Center for Student Life**

3435 9 ½ Avenue; Rock Island, IL 61201

Contact [conniehuntley@augustana.edu](mailto:conniehuntley@augustana.edu) to RSVP for Brunch

*This month's mystery friend is Julie Tallman!*