

West Branch Friends Meeting

July 2021

“Accompanied”

Wherever we go, the Divine is present — in whatever form the Divine comes to you. No matter where you are, or what mood you’re in, God is present. Our kids have been learning this as they take “Flat Jesus” with them in their various activities this summer. Check out page 3 to see where our kids and Flat Jesus have been — more pictures to come!



Where and how do you see God as you move through your day? I would love to hear your God sightings! I invite you to share them via email: (deaconchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org) or phone (319-210-4038) and we will include them in next month’s newsletter. It is always so encouraging to hear how we are seeing God present and at work — in our lives and in our world.

The poem below, by Gerard Manly Hopkins, always makes me think of “God sightings” . Pay attention and share where you spot God this summer!

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

God’s Grandeur by Gerard Manly Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man’s smudge and shares man’s smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness, deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.



July Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Upcoming Events

Birthdays

July 6: Rory Jeddeloh
July 10: Dick Hinkhouse
July 12: Raelynn Bowers
July 15: Diane Painter
Michael Conner
July 19: Kainoa Senio
July 21: Allan Winder
July 23: Michaela Wolfram
July 25: Michelle Hinkhouse
July 27: Addie Bass
Scott Bradley
July 28: Sam Torkelson
Dax Glasson-Darling

Anniversaries

July 1: Doug & Jackie Rasmussen
July 16: Matt & Laura Scott
Tim Jackson & Deborah Sues
July 21: Eddie & Anita Starr
July 22: Dan & Morgan Draiocht

Upcoming Events

July 6: M&C meeting 7:00 pm
July 13: Endowment 7:00 pm
July 18: Monthly meeting for Business 11:45 am
July 25: Special Offering for CommUnity Crisis
Center
June 27: Stewardship 7:00 pm

Gathering Music each Sunday 10:25 am
Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am
Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am at the meetinghouse
Humans for² Racial Justice: Tuesday 5:30 pm at the
Peace Pole

Summer with “Flat Jesus”

Our Christian Education committee launched a great summer idea last month. To practice the learning that Jesus is with us always, the children in the meeting were mailed a “Flat Jesus” figure. This is a direct play on the “Flat Stanley” adventures, popular with kids for some time. (If you haven’t seen or heard of these, check ‘em out — they’re great fun!) Our kids were encouraged to take Flat Jesus with them on their own adventures this summer — wherever those adventures may take them! The only request was that they email pictures to us so we could see all of the places and activities where Flat Jesus was present. Our first pictures are arriving and we share them with you below: Keep sending in pics, kids! We love to go adventuring with you — and Jesus!



Ikey and Jesus at 8th grade graduation



Samantha (Sammi) and Jesus at the Antique Car Museum

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Marvin and Fran Fritz

Nancy Stacks

Ed and Maria Denmead

Mildred Torkelson



Joys & Blessings

- Moving back to the meetinghouse for worship and maintaining our Zoom worship
- Diane's tumors are shrinking
- Katy Meren-Fuchtman landed a new job teaching in Muscatine
- New friends joining us in worship
- The joy of gifts shared in worship: our pianists, special music, children's messages and Zoom hosts
- Friends helping each other in times of need
- For all those who have received their COVID vaccine
- Celebrating in-person visits with family and friends
- Celebrating all of our birthdays and anniversaries

Requests for Prayer

- All those affected by the building collapse in Miami
- Lyn's friends Barbara and Manouch with on-going health issues
- Lyn's brother-in-law Bob receiving physical therapy at a rehab center after hospitalization
- Ben's friend Raigu upon the loss of his father, and his inability to travel to India to be with family
- For Addie as she wrestles with depression and treatment and for Julie as she continues to provide support on her journey
- Diane who continues with cancer treatment
- For Anita with on-going chronic pain issues
- Racial injustice particularly praying for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders at this time
- Mental health and the lack of funding for needed services
- Continuing gun violence in this country
- The smooth distribution of COVID vaccine

FYI — PLEASE SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO COULD BENEFIT THIS SUMMER — Thank you!

Households in Cedar County may qualify for a fan or air conditioner if income guidelines and other conditions are met. Call **563-549-9375** to apply. (Community Action of East Central Iowa). Office are closed to the public. Applications will be taken by phone and available items are limited.

Hacap Mobile Food Pantry Schedule for July

1st Brighton @The Gym W. Main & N. Mechanic St 10:30-11:30 am (Washington County)

1st Washington United Presbyterian Church 209 E. Main St. 1-2 pm (Washington County)

2nd Tipton UMC 607 Lynn St 3:30-4:30 pm (Cedar County)

6th Hiawatha Public Library @ City Hall 101 Emmons St 2-3pm (Linn County)

7th Marion Public Library @ Lowe Park 4500 N. 10th St 4-5 pm (Linn County)

12th Mercer Park 2701 Bradford St Iowa City 1-2 pm (Johnson County)

13th Onslow City Hall 101 Summit St 1-2 pm (Jones County)

13th Bennett Ambulance Service bldg. 145 Main St. 3:30-4:30pm (Cedar County)

14th Marion Village 750 35th St. 3-4 pm (Linn County)

15th Anamosa Mobile @ St Paul's Lutheran Church 201 N. Ford St 3-4 pm (Jones County)

16th Ladd Library SW 3750 Williams Blvd. SW Cedar Rapids 1-2 pm (Linn County)

19th Marengo @ Iowa Co. Fairgrounds 800 E. Marion St, noon-1:00 pm (Iowa County)

20th West Branch Fire Department 105 S. 2nd St. 3:30-4:30 pm (Cedar County)

21st Cedar Terrace SW 1834 Gretchen Dr. SW Cedar Rapids 3-4 pm (Linn County)

23rd North English Community Center 210 S. Main St. 4:00-5:00 pm (Iowa County)

26th Olin Elementary School 212 Trilby St 3:30-4:30pm (Jones County)

27th Williamsburg KCC Campus 200 West St. 3-4 pm (Iowa County)

28th Belle Plaine Community Center 1309 5th Ave. 11:00-noon (Benton County)

29th Monticello @ Fairgrounds 700 N Maple St 3:30-4:30 pm (Jones County)

COMING SOON...

Humans for Racial Justice
“Diversity Booth” 11-3 pm
August 7, at Hooverfest



Pie and Ice Cream Social at the meetinghouse
August 7, during Hooverfest



The World We Seek: A Statement of Legislative Policy by Friends Committee on National Legislation

We seek a world

free of war and the threat of war

We seek a society

with equity and justice for all

We seek a community

where every person's potential may be fulfilled

We seek an earth restored