

West Branch Friends Meeting

June 2022

“Time to Stop Whispering”



“Hate has talked so loudly for so long. Greed has talked so loudly for so long. Liars have talked so loudly for so long. Love has got to stop whispering.” — Marianne Williamson

“God is love — all the time. And all the time — God is love.” — West Branch Friend Church every Sunday.

I read the first quote online sometime last week. I have been pondering it ever since. How does love become a voice that is louder than all the hate, and greed, and lies and hypocrisy we experience in our world? It feels lately like these voices are HOWLING — and constant. The voice of love feels quieter, and sporadic. How do we change this?

The recent visual witness to the shootings in Uvalde (at the meetinghouse) is a great start. In addition to our prayers for all involved, a small group got together and made sure that at least those immediately around us know where our hearts lie, and that we are committed to addressing real issues in our world — in our living together as God’s beloved children.

Have you ever heard this advice to writers? “Show, don’t tell.” Not only is that good advice for writing, but it’s good advice for people of faith committed to peace and justice. Our lives are our witness: to the love of God, and to the commitment by those who follow God to lead lives of love. Our actions are the way that love speaks with the loudest voice possible. “Be the change you wish to see in the world” said Mahatma Gandhi. And of course, the greatest commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.” It is time, friends, to practice these things with all that we have and all that we are. What we say together on Sunday has to mean something in practice on Monday.

Let us each sit with Spirit and listen for what God would have us do. Then, I invite us — as West Branch Friends —to not only discern together how we witness love to the world, but to act on that discernment together. Let us be a force of love in this world — this world that sorely needs it. And needs us.

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

We Want to Hear From You!!



What are your favorites hymns? What scriptures do you hold close? Would you like to hear and sing these in worship? Let us know what they are! Please email Chris at deaconchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org with your hymn and scripture suggestions!

This is YOUR newsletter! What do you want to read about? Looking for something new? Missing something that used to be here? Let us know!

Please email Pastor Chris at deaconchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org with your content suggestions!

Thanks in advance for responding and letting us know your thoughts and preferences!



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

Sam Torkelson & Tyler Cermak graduating from high school.

Erik visiting from Missouri



Requests for Prayer

Greg Humrichouse and family upon the death of his dad.

Fran Fritz recovering from stay in the ICU.

Lois staying with Eddie and Anita after a fall.

Diane, adding radiation to her cancer treatment

Joan's brother dealing with chronic pain & mobility issues

Abe Scott upon the death of his friend

All of the families in Uvalde, Texas

All of the families in Buffalo, New York

Rising covid numbers

The Ecumenical World Prayer Cycle for June

May 29-June 4: Angola, Mozambique

June 5-June 11: Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini

June 12-June 18: Botswana, Zimbabwe

June 19-June 25: Malawi, Zambia

June 26-July 2: Kenya, Tanzania



June Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays

June 1: Gwen Senio

June 6: Justin Kane

Mary Malcom

June 7: Erin Senio

Greg Humrichouse

June 8: Lisa Baum

June 15: Judy Ellyson

June 16: Tony Senio

June 17: Laura Scott

Keith Hemingway

June 21: Don Swartzendruber

June 22: Eric Alvarez

June 28: Meredith Glasson-Darling

Simon Meren-Fuchtman

June 29: Jim Glasson

Anniversaries

June 19: Geery Howe &

Jane Cadwallader-Howe

May 26: Ben & Judy Clark

Upcoming Events

June 5: New Association of Friends Business Meeting (on Zoom) 3:00 pm

June 7: M&C 7:00 pm

June 12: Peace & Justice Sunday 10:30 am

Potluck Luncheon 11:40 am

June 14: Endowment 7:00 pm

June 19: Father's Day

June 26: Monthly Meeting for Business 11:45

Special Offering for DVIP

June 28: Stewardship 7:00 pm

Gathering Music each Sunday 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am

Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am at the meetinghouse