

JANUARY 2025

# NOTES FROM FRIENDS

The monthly newsletter of West Branch Friends Church



What's inside this issue:

*Thank you pg. 5*

*Quaker news pg. 6*

## A Note from Your Pastor

*I would like to share the following reflection from Fr. Greg Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries. "Be on the lookout" might just be a theme for me this coming year....*

*My friend Mirabai Starr, a mystic who writes about mystics, says, "Once you know the God of Love, you fire all the other gods." It is always hard for us to believe in the nonjudgmental, loving, and merciful God, and yet, that is the God we actually have. Joel, a man who did considerable time in prison, told me, "When my toes hit the floor in the morning, I'm on the lookout." "On the lookout for what?" I asked him. "For God," he said. "God is always leaving me hints. He's dropping me anonymous tips all the time." This is the God of love trying to break through. This God will not be outdone in extravagant tenderness. Leaving hints as "deep as the nether world or high as the sky," as the prophet Isaiah reminds us. We get to choose the god who judges and is embarrassed, or the One who notices and delights in us.*

*In Riotous Joy, Chris*



## *Query for the Month*

**Be aware of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities & experiences of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us.**

Are you open to new light, from whatever source it may come?

Do you approach new ideas with discernment?



# Meeting for Worship



*Join us in meeting for worship Sundays at 10:30.*

This month, we will explore the stories Jesus told and the new ways of thinking they proclaimed. We will explore this with the help of the book *Parables As Subversive Speech* by William R. Herzog

## Worship Servants

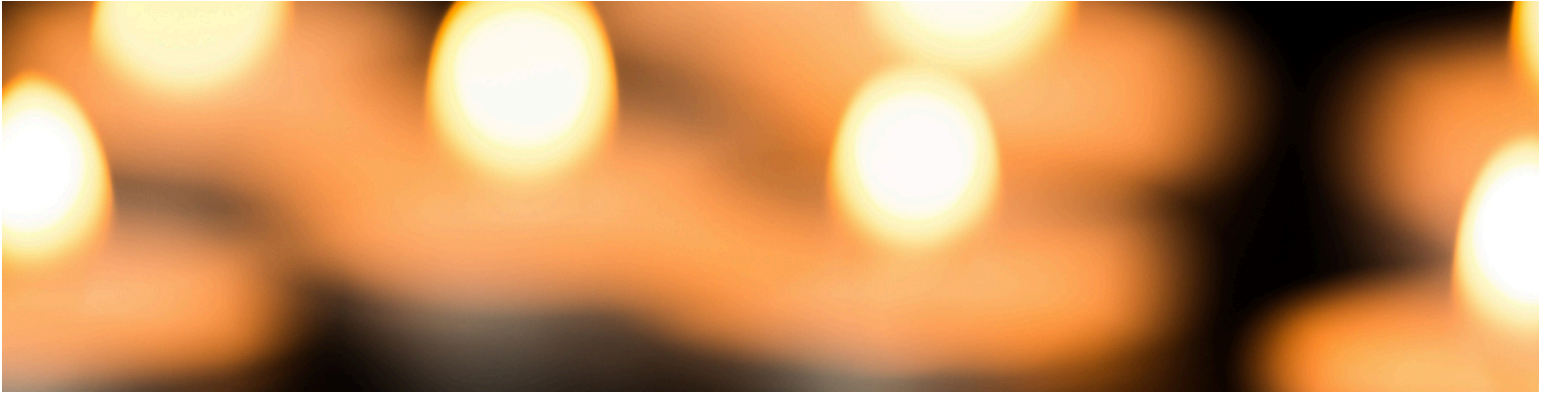
January 5  
Greeter: Doug Schneide  
Zoom Host: Maxine Koepf  
Children's Message:  
Special Music:  
Piano:

January 26  
Greeter:  
Zoom:  
Children's Message:  
Special Music:  
Piano

January 12  
Greeter:  
Zoom Host:  
Children's Message  
Special Music:  
Piano:

January 19  
Greeter:  
Zoom Host: Teresa Winder  
Children's Message:  
Special Music:  
Piano:

# Time for Prayer



## Pray for Our Elders

*Darlene Baum  
Pat Bradley  
Maria Denmead  
Fran Fritz  
Mary Humrichouse  
Pat Langrehr  
Donna Mortenson  
Larry Reiner  
Lois Semotan  
Nancy Stacks  
Mildred Torkelson*

## Joys & Concerns

- *Max's friend Jenny (and kids) in a domestic violence situation*
- *Jeff K.'s daughter & friends affiliated with the Madison school where the recent shooting took place*
- *Sam's roommate going through a difficult time*
- *Kathleen's friend Clair with a diagnosis of liver cancer*
- *Jeff E. dealing with health issues*
- *Bob & Theresa A. dealing with health issues*
- *Raghu dealing with health issues*
- *Elaine's godson Kevin*

## Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for January

*Dec. 29-Jan.4: Stateless people  
Jan. 5-Jan.11: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine  
Jan. 12-Jan. 18: Iran, Iraq, Syria  
Jan. 19-Jan. 25: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen  
Jan. 26-Feb. 1: Cyprus, Greece, Turkiye*

## A Prayer for Peace

**Spirit of peace & patience,  
Please soothe our hot tempers and wash away our anxieties. Please restore our hearts to peace and bring patience into our fingers that we may reach out to others with kindness and trust. Gentle our weariness, inspire our capacities for love, protect the vulnerable, and guard the courageous. Guide us into compassion and quiet reflection. Renew our spirits with hope, restore our understanding of one another, and blanket our lands and lives with tenderness and healing.**

# Thank you all!

*I wish to extend deep thanks for your Christmas gift --it is greatly appreciated! It is an honor and a privilege to serve among you. Each one of you is a blessing in my life and I am forever grateful.*

*With much love -- Chris*

## Ecumenical Women's Group Thursday, January 2 at 6:30 pm

Texts for this month:

Rahab -- Joshua 2:1-21

Mary Visits Elizabeth -- Luke 1:39-45

Ruth -- 3:1-18; 4:13-17

Magnificat - Luke 1:46-55

Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Elizabeth Gives Birth - Luke 1:57-66

God Giving Birth - Isaiah 42:5-9, 14

Mary Gives Birth - Luke 2:1-20

Called in the Womb - Isaiah 49:1-7

Mary's Family Goes to Nazareth Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



## Friends of the Wild Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 pm Hoover Park

**Reflection for the Month:**

**What does your relationship to nature have to do with your spirituality?**

**What *is* your relationship with nature?**



# News from our Quaker Connections

**We are hiring!**

**Advancement Coordinator-application deadline January 12, 2024**

This position with the Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas (FWCC) is full-time (35 hours per week), exempt, with full benefits, with a salary range from \$41,000-55,000 DOE. The preferred position location is the Friends Center office building in Philadelphia's Center City but remote locations will be considered. The Advancement Coordinator will work closely with the Executive Secretary and other staff to collectively raise \$500,000 annually through a combination of individual gifts, grants, and contributions from other denominational bodies. Excellent written and spoken English is required, Spanish proficiency preferred. To apply, please send your resume or curriculum vitae, a cover letter, and up to 3 pdf samples of past work relevant to the job description to [jobs@fwccamericas.org](mailto:jobs@fwccamericas.org).

**2025 Section Meeting Registration is open!**

*Building the Future as Way Opens*

**FWCC Americas 2025 Section Meeting**

FWCC will hold our hybrid 2025 Section Meeting March 20 - 23 at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Scottsdale, Arizona and online.

Register today! All Friends are welcome!

**[fwccamericas.org/events](https://fwccamericas.org/events)**

## Become a River of Blessing and Delight! -- from Friends United Meeting

Dear ,

As I reflect upon the blessings of 2024, I am filled with gratitude for your generosity and care for the work of Friends United Meeting. Your support has been instrumental in transforming lives across the globe, allowing us to embody the theme of "Becoming A River of Blessing."

In reviewing FUM's financial blessings this year, I am humbled by your extraordinary commitment. You gave \$749,000 for programs in Africa, \$705,000 to funding our Friends schools in the Middle East, \$472,000 to sustain FUM ministries in the Caribbean, and over \$830,000 to support the General Fund and North American ministries. Together we planted new churches in Tanzania, responded to medical needs at the Lugulu Hospital, trained leaders at Friends Theological College, enabled Ramallah Friends School to provide support and counseling to students traumatized by war, offered relief to vulnerable communities in Turkana, dispensed grocery bags on the south side of Belize City, and provided a ministry of spiritual encouragement through Quaker Life. Because of your support, Friends United Meeting could be a conduit of hope, peace, and love.

As we approach the end of the year, I wish to extend an invitation to those who have not yet had the opportunity to contribute to our end-of-year campaign. Your involvement can continue this river of blessing. No contribution is too small; whether it's \$5 or \$5,000, every dollar helps us extend our reach and enhance our capabilities to serve effectively. May we move forward together, strengthened by our commitment to make a difference in the world, flowing with the rivers of hope and blessing that God has laid before us.

With deep appreciation,

Kelly R. Kellum

General Secretary

### Upcoming Events at Pendle Hill

- Deadline to Register for The Spring Term Resident Student Program
- January 1
- Winter Writing and Research Retreat - On Campus: Jan 3-10
- A self-guided personal retreat to work in the comfort of Pendle Hill's Library.
- January First Monday Lecture - Hybrid: Jan 6
- Be Not Afraid: Living into Love at the End of Life with Patti Nesbitt and Kristin Camitta.
- January Reading Group - Online: Jan 14
- Worship sharing on Pamela Haines's Money and Soul PHP #450
- Hope in the Dark : A Winter Circle of Trust® Retreat - On Campus: Jan 23-26
- A weekend retreat exploring the generative power of darkness through poetry, journaling, silence, and nature with Veta Goler and Mariam Habib.
- Beyond Diversity 101 Gender and Sexuality: A Healing Transformation Workshop for 2SLGBTQIA+ People - On Campus: Feb 3-7
- A workshop for facilitators, artists, leaders, healers, teachers, and organizers.
- February First Monday Lecture - Hybrid: Feb 3
- A Black History Month lecture with Dr. Harold D. (Hal) Weaver, Jr. and Nozizwe Madlala0Routledge
- A Winter Nature Walk: "The Cold Facts About Trees That Will Warm Your Heart" - On Campus: Feb 9
- A walking exploration of the natural and social ecosystems of Pendle Hill's

## Featured Recipe from Pendle Hill Crock Pot Apple Pear Butter

If you have an abundance of seasonal produce, turn them into this sweet and tangy spread to add to your holiday charcuterie boards, or slather over toast at breakfast. This recipe was created by former kitchen intern, Stacy Nagel, who encourages experimentation with this recipe!



### Ingredients:

**10 apples and pears altogether in any combination**  
**1-2 cups apple juice (depending on the texture you want)**  
**2 cups milk**  
**1/8 - 1/4 cup molasses**  
**honey to taste**  
**2 Tbsp cinnamon**  
**1 Tbsp cloves**  
**Allspice to taste**

**Peel, core, and rough-cut enough apples and pears to fill your crock pot. (Or you can put them through a food mill.) If you want to speed the process, precook the fruit with the juice on the stove until the fruit is soft.**

**Put all of the ingredients in the crock pot. Stir and let the mixture cook down, uncovered, until it reaches the consistency and color you prefer. Taste and adjust the flavor by adding more spices, molasses, and/or honey to achieve the desired flavor. Leave your apple butter chunky or process it to a smooth consistency in a blender. Let cool and enjoy!**