

West Branch Friends Meeting... July, 2020

"One Last Tree Story"



Before the mighty oak became one of my favorite trees as I walked along my daily route, I became fascinated with one of the largest trees I'd ever seen – a massive cottonwood tree. Its huge trunk and sturdy limbs just seemed so majestic....kind of like it was telling the whole world that it was special. And then there is all that 'cotton' fluff that blows around from mid-April until June. For people with allergies, it's not a favorite tree, by far! But I learned some things about the cottonwood that seemed to fit our Quaker meeting at this point in time.

Much like the cottonwood, Quakers were a fast-growing denomination, beginning in England and moving rapidly from the east coast to the west as many Quakers chose to move to America to spread their vision of the Kingdom of God, and how to best share the Light of God with others. Also like the cottonwood's rather short life – at least compared to the oak trees, the number of Friends' churches has been steadily declining for many years. But take heart: like the cottonwood tree with its very thick bark that is able to withstand fires and Iowa winters, Friends are still surviving, and so, maybe we're more like the tough cottonwood in that regard.

As I thought about the cotton fluff's ability to blow up to five miles from its source, I wondered if our Quaker message had pretty much already spread and landed with not much more ever being produced. I think about the dwindling numbers of attenders in most Iowa Friends' churches, and it makes me sad to consider what might happen if the life of this particular faith is nearing its end – much like the shorter life of a cottonwood tree.

But I am excited to think about a new tree that's soon to be planted in our meeting at WB Friends – a new pastor, with new and fresh ideas, new ways to challenge, new 'cotton' to start spreading the long-standing Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, communion, equality, and stewardship. I hope we can each welcome this new life for our meeting, recognizing we are all part of the branches producing the cotton that can be spread about the entire community.

Let's nurture this new growth, let's spread the word, let's 'be the church' and make a difference in the lives we encounter each week!

Signing off with love, joy, peace, and the Light within each of us, Pastor Sue

Which West Branch Friend Am I ??????

My favorite food is: *Pizza*

The best book (other than the Bible) I ever read was: *The Complete Stories of Mark Twain*

My favorite hymn is: *"In the Garden"*

I spent my early years in: *Rock Falls, Iowa*

I have *3* children.

My favorite color is: *Blue*

The scripture most meaningful to me is: *23rd Psalm*

My favorite season is: *Autumn*

My favorite thing about West Branch Friends Meeting is:
*The love, respect, and kindness members extend to other
People in their daily lives.*

Who Am I?

*See the answer to this month's mystery friend at the end of
this newsletter.*



July Birthdays, Anniversaries And Upcoming Events

Anniversaries

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

Birthdays

July 06: Rory Jeddeloh
July 10: Dick Hinkhouse
July 15: Michael Conner
July 15: Diane Painter
July 19: Kainoa Senio
July 21: Allan Winder
July 23: Micheala Wolfram
July 27: Addie Tallman Bass
July 27: Scott Bradley
July 28: Hannah Glasson-Darling
July 28: Sam Torkelson


July Events at West Branch Friends:

July 07: Ministry and Counsel, 7 PM
July 09: Crestview Service, 2 PM (pending)
July 14: Endowment Committee Meeting, 7 PM
July 19: Monthly Meeting for Business following worship service
July 26: Special offering for Community Crisis Services and Food Bank
July 28: Stewardship Committee, 7 PM

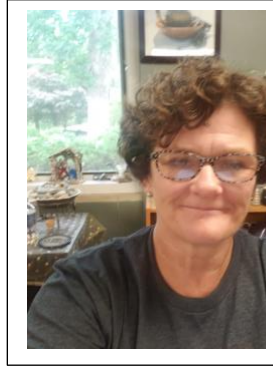
Weekly: Tuesday evenings, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
Gathering at the Peace Pole for Racial Justice

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -Dr. Seuss

July 2020 WBFC Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
KEY: Birthdays # Anniversaries *			1 Doug & Jackie Rasmussen *	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5	6 Rory Jeddeloh #	7 <i>7:00 M&C**</i>	8	9 <i>2:00 Crestview**</i>	10 Dick Hinkhouse #	11
12	13	14 <i>7:00 Endowment**</i>	15 Diane Painter # Michael Conner #	16 Tim Jackson & Deborah Sues * Matt & Laura Scott *	17	18
19 Kainoa Senio # <i>11:40 Monthly Mtg for Business**</i>	20	21 Allan Winder # Eddie & Anita Starr *	22 Don & Morgan (Starr) Draiocht *	23 Micheala Wolfram #	24	25 Michelle Hinkhouse #
26 <i>Special Offering for Community Crisis Center</i>	27 Scott Bradley # Addie Bass #	28 Sam Torkelson # Hannah Glasson-Darling # <i>7:00 Stewardship**</i>	29	30	31	
Gathering Music 10:25 am Meeting for Worship – 10:30 am Prayer Group – Mondays 9:30 am Weekly Gathering for Racial Justice – Tuesdays 5:30-7:00 pm at the Peace Pole in front of the church			**All meetings and events are tentatively scheduled or may be held electronically if possible.			

A Word from our New Pastor, **Chris Humrichouse:**



Dear Friends:

I feel so blessed to be able to serve with you here in West Branch. I want to thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. Times are strange, though, and since we are not meeting in person, a word of introduction might be helpful!

First off, I am sure you have seen me identified as Christine on Zoom and other places. While I love my name and I do use it on all “official” stuff, I usually go by Chris. So, please feel free to use that. I am a native Iowan, growing up on the Mississippi River in Camanche. I moved to Iowa City in 1983 to start my undergrad education at UI and fell in love – with my now husband and with Iowa City.

We moved to West Branch (actually Springdale) in 1994 and to Downey Street in 1998. That’s right – I live 3 doors down from the meeting house! My husband Greg is a newly retired Iowa City police officer and we have two adult daughters – Jill and Jennifer. They are both married and live in Cedar Rapids and Robins, respectively. I also have two dogs which are a huge part of my life – Poppy and Boomer. I am an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church and attended seminary at Garrett in Evanston, Illinois. But... my husband grew up Quaker, and there has long been a pull for me from the Friends Church. I am so excited to explore this call with all of you!

It is my profound hope that together we can grow deeper in our spirituality while we expand our work and witness in the world. I think that the Friends Church is a somewhat hidden gem in West Branch and I also believe we can change that. It is my dream that folks in the surrounding area will come to know that a warm welcome awaits them here always. Not only will they be welcomed, but they will have the opportunity to be part of something much bigger than themselves.

When you see me, please feel free to introduce yourself (at an appropriate social distance, of course!). Trust that I am working on names and faces, and hope to get to know each of you better very soon. Please also feel free to contact me by email at deaonchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org or by phone 319-210-4038, if you have specific joys and concerns for which we can be in prayer. Thanks again, for this amazing opportunity...

Grace and peace, Chris

Worship Help

As you can see, we are still not able
To worship in the meetinghouse, but
Please offer your willingness to
serve as zoom administrator,
provide special music, or a
children's message. Just let
Pastor Chris know of your desire to
help.



Email Chris at: deaconchris@pecularpilgrimage.org

Favorite Meeting Recipes
Meat Taco Dip!
From the Kitchen of Corinda Wolfram

1.5 pound hamburger meat
1 Can Campbell's Tomato Soup
½ clove minced garlic
1 packet low sodium taco seasoning
1 package cream cheese
¼ C. parmesan cheese

Tortilla Chips

Brown the hamburger with the taco seasoning and put in a crock pot.

Add the other ingredients and cook on low for 1-2 hours, stirring occasionally.

Top with shredded cheese (optional) and serve with tortilla chips.



Blessings and Prayers

Our Senior Friends:

Larry Reiner
Lois Semotan
Marvin and Fran Fritz
Nancy Stacks
Ed and Maria Denmead
Arnold and Mildred Torkelson



Requests for Prayer:

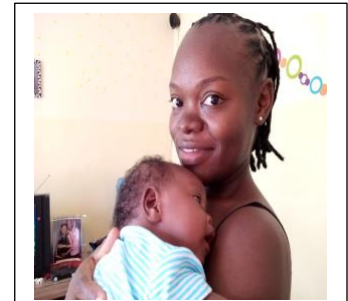
- Eddie Starr, Ear surgery
- Michael's sister Deb -colon. cancer surgery
- Diane Painter – cancer treatment
- Kathleen's friend Dorothy in her final days.
- Andrea's grandma for relief from her arthritis.
- The continued search for racial justice
- A way to navigate this COVID-19 virus in order to keep everyone safe
- Workers in health care, and those in factories dealing with the virus
- Peaceful transitions for those needing more care than can be gotten at home.
- Julie's neighbor John

Joys and Blessings

- Continued great zoom gatherings for worship and meetings
- Wonderful times of gathering at the peace pole to work for racial justice
- A new job for Kat, Justin Kane's partner
- Addie's safe return to California
- And a special thanks from me, Pastor Sue, for all the beautiful retirement cards and words of appreciation for my ministry. You are all so special to me!!

"Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." -Mother Teresa

Friends United Meeting Mission News



It is easy to think that not much has happened since our last newsletter because our schedule feels like it came to a screeching halt. But a glance through the calendar is a good reminder of all that continues in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have included our prayer requests in the body of our newsletter.

-Our AMO administrative assistant, Kate Gunza, welcomed a new baby daughter into her family (pictured above). We are sad that we haven't been personally introduced to Taji Chebet yet, but we will look forward to that day. PRAY for Kate and family as they adjust to a new little one.

-Shawn has been enjoying interviewing some of our East African ministry leaders over Zoom and posting those interviews on social media. It is a good way to spread the news of things that are happening and keep people praying and connected. In addition, the Richmond office has been interviewing FUM leaders during this time. To view these see the links below. PRAY for these ministries as they struggle to figure out how to serve those affected by the virus.

-We have participated in many many many zoom meetings (as I imagine you are doing as well!). Some have suffered from technical difficulties and some have been quite successful. You may be accustomed to the way on Zoom that only one person can speak at a time so interruptions will cut out the speaker, but what you might not be accustomed to is being interrupted by a rooster or by rain on a metal roof that is so loud the call must be discontinued! As much as we've been missing out on face-to-face meetings with our Project Partners, we were thrilled a couple of weeks ago to have a successful Turkana Mission Board meeting over Zoom. PRAY that we all find ways to be more adaptable and that God will inspire Friends to find new creative ways to minister.

-In recent months we've had another staffing transition in the AMO. Our finance manager (Ken) is no longer working for us or for FTC. This all transpired just as things were "shutting down" for the coronavirus and then Kate was getting ready to be gone for a 3 months maternity leave. The timing was clearly not good for hiring someone new and it seems like a good time to re-evaluate some of our roles and duties in the Africa Ministries Office. So we are "getting by" meaning that John Muhanji and Shawn and myself are patching things together on our end while Eden steers from a computer in Indiana. We are definitely learning by some trial and error as none of us are fully trained in this area, but it is helping us to see some of the complexities more clearly and have a better understanding of how to move ahead.



July 2020 Mobile Food Pantry Schedule

- 1st Lindale Mall Mega Pantry 12:30-2:30pm (Linn County)
- 2nd Brighton **new location**, Jefferson Street, west side of City Park 10:30-11:30am (Washington County)
- 2nd Washington United Presbyterian Church 209 E Main St 1-2pm (Washington County)
- 8th Marion Village 750 35th St. 3-4pm (Linn County)
- 10th Tipton UMC 607 Lynn St. 3:30-4:30pm (Cedar County)
- 11th 4th Street Diner Vinton 9:30-10:30am (Benton County)
- 13th Cross Park Housing 820 Cross Park Ave, Iowa City 4-5pm (Johnson County)
- 14th Onslow City Hall 101 Summit St. 1-2pm (Jones County)
- 14th Bennett Ambulance Service Bldg. 145 Main St. 3-4pm (Cedar County)
- 15th Veteran's Stadium Mega Pantry 12:30-2:30pm (Linn County)
- 16th Anamosa St. Paul's Church 201 N. Ford St. 3-4pm (Jones County)
- 17th Cedar Terrace 1834 Gretchen Dr. SW Cedar Rapids 3-4pm (Linn County)
- 20th Marengo Library 235 Hilton St. 12-1pm (Iowa County)
- 21st West Branch Fire Department 105 S. 2nd St. 3:30-4:30pm (Cedar County)
- 24th North English Community Center 210 S. Main St. 4-5pm (Iowa County)
- 27th Monticello Public Library 205 E. Grand St. 3:30-4:30pm (Jones County)
- 28th Williamsburg KCC Campus 200 West St. 3-4pm (Iowa County)
- 29th Belle Plaine Community Center 1309 5th Ave 11am-12pm (Benton County)
- 30th Mercer Park Mega Pantry Iowa City 12:30-2:30pm (Johnson County)
- 31st Olin Pop Up Pantry 212 Tribly St. 12:30-2:00pm (Jones County)



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Two people read the same Bible.

One sees reasons to love.
The other reasons to hate.

One sees unity.
The other division.

One finds prejudice.
The other equality.

One discovers compassion.
The other, indifference.

One good will.
The other malice.

Two people, one book.
One book, two views.

The book is a mirror.
The reflection is you.

N.W.

This month's mystery friend is Gordon Edgar!