

NOVEMBER 2024

NOTES FROM FRIENDS

The monthly newsletter of West Branch Friends Church



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A Note from Your Pastor

I'm experimenting with a new program for our monthly newsletter. You will note some changes in this month's edition. As I grow more accustomed to and comfortable with this program, I hope we will have more pictures/graphics and room for more content each month. I know we will be adding volunteer opportunities, community events and WBARC (West Branch Consultation on Religious Communities) news. I would love it if you would let me know what you would like to see in the newsletter! Drop me a line at deaconchris@peculiarpilgrimage.org or give me a call at 319-210-4038. Enjoy this new edition and let me know what you think!

*In Riotous Joy,
Pastor Chris*



Query for the Month

**George Fox told us to let our lives speak. What
is your life saying?**

Is it in harmony with your beliefs?



Meeting for Worship



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

In November, the message will form around the Bible. What does it have to say to us? What does it NOT tell us? What do you think? This series is based on the book by Michael L. Birkel entitled *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends*.

In December, join us for the Advent season and a different look at Christmas based on the book by Ruth L. Boling entitled *Seasons Greetings: Christmas Letters from Those Who Were There*.

Worship Servants

November 3

Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom Host: Jim Glasson
Special Music:
Children's Message: Sue McCracken
Piano: Julie Tallman

November 10

Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom: Maxine Koepp
Special Music:
Children's Message:
Piano: Gwen Senio

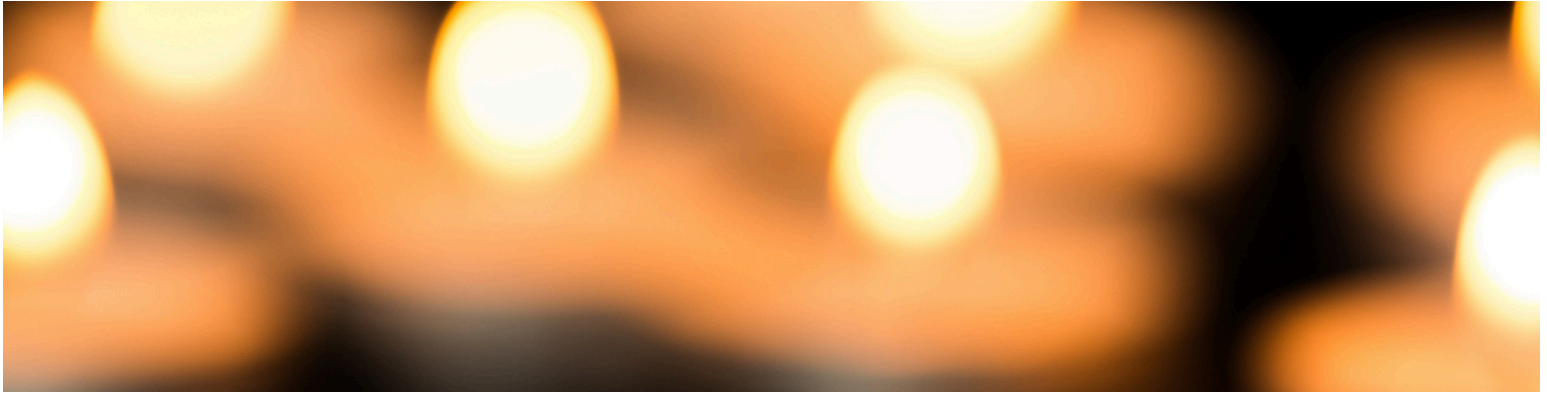
November 17

Greeter: Hilda Bowers
Zoom Host:
Special Music:
Children's Message:
Piano: Julie Tallman

November 24

Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom:
Special Music:
Children's Message: Joan B.
Piano: Gwen Senio

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 Stax
Mildred Torkelson*

A Prayer for Elections

Forgive us for the times we've entered a conversation without really listening. Show us how to listen with open and humble hearts, especially to people different from us. Help our leaders to do the same. Teach us as a nation to focus less on getting our way and more on loving our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us. Lord, give our leaders and prospective leaders the strength to be humble, soft-hearted, and willing to listen to every voice.

Joys & Concerns

*Jeff, dealing with health issues
Bob & Theresa A. dealing with health issues
Julie's friend John and niece Sarah dealing with health issues
Chris & Greg moving both of their mothers at the same time
Raghu dealing with health issues
Elaine's friend Kevin
Traveling mercies for Anji*

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for November

Oct. 27-Nov. 2: *Canada and USA*
Nov. 3- Nov. 9: *Oceania: Fiji, French Polynesia, Kanaky, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu*
Nov. 10-Nov. 16: *New Zealand, Australia*
Nov. 17-Nov. 23: *East Timor, Indonesia, Philippines*
Nov. 24-Nov. 30: *Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore*

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Lord, I thank you that there are an infinite number of things to thank you for, if I reflect for even a moment! Now help me to take that time and to give you thanks for your many gifts I take for granted. Then let thankfulness begin to transform all my attitudes, toward you, myself, others, and life. Amen. 2

New Ministry Opportunities



**First Meeting
Ecumenical Women's Group**

**Thursday, Nov. 7, 6:30-7:30pm
West Branch Friends Church**

Ecumenical Women's Group

Join us in the meetinghouse basement on First Thursdays for a new Ecumenical Women's Group. We will begin meeting on the first Thursday of November — November 7, at 6:30 pm. Don't like to drive at night or in winter? No problem! This group will also have a Zoom option, so everyone can join! We'll kick off our meeting time together by exploring women and feminine imagery in the Bible. We'll be using *The Women's Lectionary* by Quaker Ashley M. Wilcox (and of course many different translations of the Bible!) for this study. (And no, you don't have to buy a book — all materials provided!) I hope you'll join us for a fresh take on scripture, many differing views from many different branches of faith, and lively discussion about what it means to be women of faith today. No matter what church — no matter if you have NO church — ALL are welcome. Invite your friends!

Join Us For Wild Church

Step into nature. Take a moment. Close your eyes. Breathe. Listen. Feel the air around you and the ground beneath you. Open your eyes. Observe your surroundings. The plants. The wild life. The land. Do you feel it? The life? The history? Your connection to it? Your place in it? The presence of All That Is? You are standing in a sacred place.

Wild Church returns us to nature as a spiritual practice to remind us that we are more than just a part of the human world. Contemporary life removes many of us from the natural world — perhaps especially in church. Wild Church is worship in and with the natural world and it reminds us of our interconnectedness as well as our commitment to care for all creation. If you've been hurt by church; if you've never connected to church, if you are looking for something different than the church spaces you've found, we invite you to join us in connecting with the Divine in worship and reconnecting with the sacred space of our earth and all its inhabitants.

Friends of the Wild* meets on the third Sunday of each month beginning November 17. We will meet in the shelter at Hoover Park**at 4:00 pm. Our worship will begin with this gathering and will include contemplative walks (by yourself or with others), land acknowledgements, care for creation, or simply sitting beneath a tree and contemplating this amazing place in which we live. We meet outside rain or shine, cold or sweltering — unless weather conditions have been deemed dangerous. All are welcome — and all means ALL. Our meeting site is accessible via the paved trails from the Hoover Library parking lot if you are experiencing any physical conditions that limit mobility. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris Humrichouse of West Branch Friends Church at 319-210-4038.

*Friends of the Wild is an environmental ministry of West Branch Friends Church.

**Meeting place for our first meeting may be subject to change. We will keep you informed.

***Friends who are already a part of West Branch Friends Church, I encourage you to invite friends, neighbors, those who want to care for and about our planet, and those whom you know that have struggled with traditional church settings and practices.