

West Branch Friends Meeting

December 2021

“Come Home for Christmas”



Advent is an invitation. For many, it is the invitation to get into that Christmas spirit, to count down the days to the grand celebration, and to let the holiday transform everything around us. Christmas is also about the celebration of the Incarnate one who comes to remind us that we are not alone, and God is with us. It is about the longing for the kin-dom where we will study war no more, where people will walk in the light, where joy will be found, and love will be the tie that binds us together. That’s the home for which we long. That’s the invitation to each and all of us this season in our meeting for worship— “Come Home for Christmas”.

I hope you’ll join us for this warm and wonderful season, where we will examine together what it means to come home to a world like we describe above. Each week we’ll look at coming home from a different perspective and spend time discerning and listening with Spirit. You are welcome to join us on Zoom or in person at 10:30 each Sunday. (Gathering music begins at 10:20)

November 28, Week 1: “Time to Go Home”

December 5, Week 2: “The Fear of Home”

December 12, Week 3: “The Joy of Home”

December 19, Week 4: “The Blessing of Home”

** You are also welcome to join us on this day for the Annual Christmas Program on Zoom at
5:00 pm

December 24, Christmas Eve: “Welcome Home” — meeting for worship is at 7:00 pm

December 26, First Sunday of Christmas: “Lost at Home”

January 2, Epiphany: “The Light of Home”

Wishing you and yours the joy of the season,

Pastor Chris

What a great time we had decorating on Saturday, November 27! The meetinghouse looks great, and there were frost-your-own cookie kits to take home afterward. Thanks everyone for all the help — and all the fun!



BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Marvin and Fran Fritz

Nancy Stax

Maria Denmead

Mildred Torkelson

Darlene Baum



Joys & Blessings

- Decorating the meetinghouse
- The opportunity to travel a bit and to see family and friends after being separated for some time
- New technology — sound and cameras helping to improve the quality of our Zoom worship and the tech committee and Zoom hosts for their dedicated work
- Priscilla & Henry visiting and sharing a children's message with us
- The musical gifts shared in worship

Requests for Prayer

- Eddie Starr continuing dialysis
- Lois Semotan with health issues
- Diane Painter taking a break from chemo
- Anita Starr packing up and closing her dental practice
- Marvin and Fran Fritz with health issues
- Maxine's father-in-law Jerry, undergoing dialysis
- Jonny Stax caring for his mother
- For all those who struggle with grief, loneliness, depression, anxiety, etc at this time of year — "Blue" Christmas

The Ecumenical World Prayer Cycle for November

November 28-December 4: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

December 5-December 11: Myanmar, Thailand

December 12-December 18: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

December 19-December 25: China, Hong Kong, Macau

December 26-January 1: Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan

December Anniversaries, Birthdays, and Upcoming Events

Birthdays

December 4: Matt Scott

Liberty English

December 6: Tanya English

December 12: Kathleen Darling

Larry Reiner

December 16: Ben Clark

December 19: Dusti Cermak

December 24: Doug Rasmussen

December 25: Katy Meren Fuchtman

December 29: Jane Cadwallader Howe

Anniversaries

December 26: Ed & Tanya English

Upcoming Events

NO regularly scheduled committee meetings this month

December 3: Bell Choir Christmas Concert
7:00 pm

December 19: Christmas Program on Zoom
5:00 pm

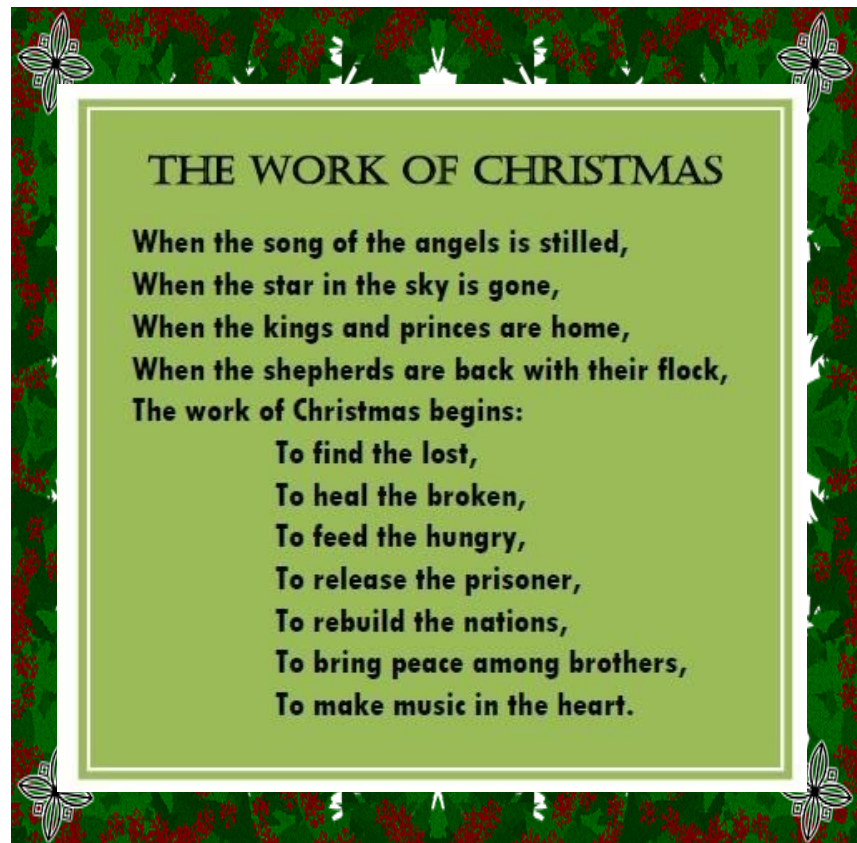
December 24: Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm

December 26: Special Offering for WBFC
Love Fund 10:30 am

Gathering Music each Sunday 10:20 am

Meeting for Worship Sunday 10:30 am

Prayer Group Mondays 9:30 am at the
meetinghouse



Fudgy Peppermint Crunch Cookies

Total Time: 38 minutes

Makes: 25

1 cup Starlight candies (peppermints)

1 (16.8 oz) moist devil's food deluxe cake mix

3 (1-oz) pouches rich chocolate flavor hot cocoa mix

1/2 cup canola oil

2 large eggs

1/4 cup mini chocolate chips

1/8 teaspoon peppermint extract

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper, set aside.
2. Place peppermint candies in a resealable plastic bag. Seal bag. Pound with a rolling pin, heavy skillet or meat mallet until coarsely crushed. Or, process candies in a food processor using on/off pulsing action. Place crushed candies in a bowl; set aside.
3. Combine cake mix, hot cocoa mix, canola oil, eggs, chocolate chips and peppermint extract in a bowl. Form dough into balls; dip into crushed candies and place 2 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or just until set. Cool on a wire rack.

Merry
Christmas

