

# NOTES FROM FRIENDS

The monthly newsletter of West Branch Friends Church



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## An Easter Promise We Can Count On

### Hymn of Promise

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be  
Unrevealed until it's season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery,  
Unrevealed until it; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity,  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity;  
in our death, a resurrection, at the 1st, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

*(cont. on pg. 2)*

One of my favorite quotes is from MLK and goes like this: “Faith is taking the first step – even when you can’t see the whole staircase.” I think of this a great deal this time of year. I cannot imagine the thoughts of those following Jesus in the dark days of his trial and crucifixion. A last meal together. A triumphal parade followed by fear and hiding in the garden. Emotions swinging wildly back and forth. Even on that first morning when they knew something different had happened – that perhaps – just perhaps – things were just as he’d told them... They didn’t quite know what to make of all of it.

It was difficult to keep going without the physical presence of the one they loved so much. Things were chaotic, fearful, hesitant. But they continued. They took one step. And then another. And they trusted that he was – and is – with them. They began to realize that new life can happen every day. In sometimes small ways, perhaps, but the ripples of these are far-reaching. Maybe family members reconcile. Maybe someone stays sober. Maybe a new friendship blossoms. Maybe a lonely person finds true, accepting community. We could name countless things. The new life Jesus brings to us is not just Easter resurrection, but the constant expansion of love for all. What a gift. And what a calling for each of us to continue that expansion in any way – in every way – we can.

Happy Easter!

*Love Big. Be Well.*  
*Chris*





## *Query of the Month*

Over the past two weeks we have been considering this statement:

“True love only ever expands”

Jesus came to teach us that God’s love is truly for ALL and that our purpose here in this place is to continue to invite everyone into the circle – to enlarge and enlarge, and enlarge, and enlarge.... that circle. This month’s query comes from this same Spirit of Love:

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**Where has your love not yet reached?**



**Need Info?  
Check out our Website!**

This newsletter appears monthly  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month  
Bulletin announcements happen weekly  
But the website is 24/7, 365 days a year!  
For all your calendar/event/topical  
info about WBFC  
Check it out here:

[www.westbranchfriendschurch.com](http://www.westbranchfriendschurch.com)

*Sue McCracken is our website editor – contact  
her to let her know what you want to see on the site!*

## **Annual Church Spring Clean-Up**

Let's spruce up the church inside and out!

Saturday, April 18 9:00 am

Rain date: Saturday, April 25

## **Shoe Donations Accepted Until April 15**

This annual recycling event is designed to keep used shoes/boots out of the landfills and on the feet of those who need them. There are five donation sites in town – Main Street Sweets, Hoover Presidential Foundation (southeast entry), West Branch Elementary School, (near the gym door), WB High school office, and WB Middle School office. Our West Branch Lions will pick up donations and deliver first to the new West Branch Clothes Closet (located next door to the Food Pantry). Any remaining shoes will be delivered to Soles4Souls, a national charity in partnership with Mount Vernon Lions.

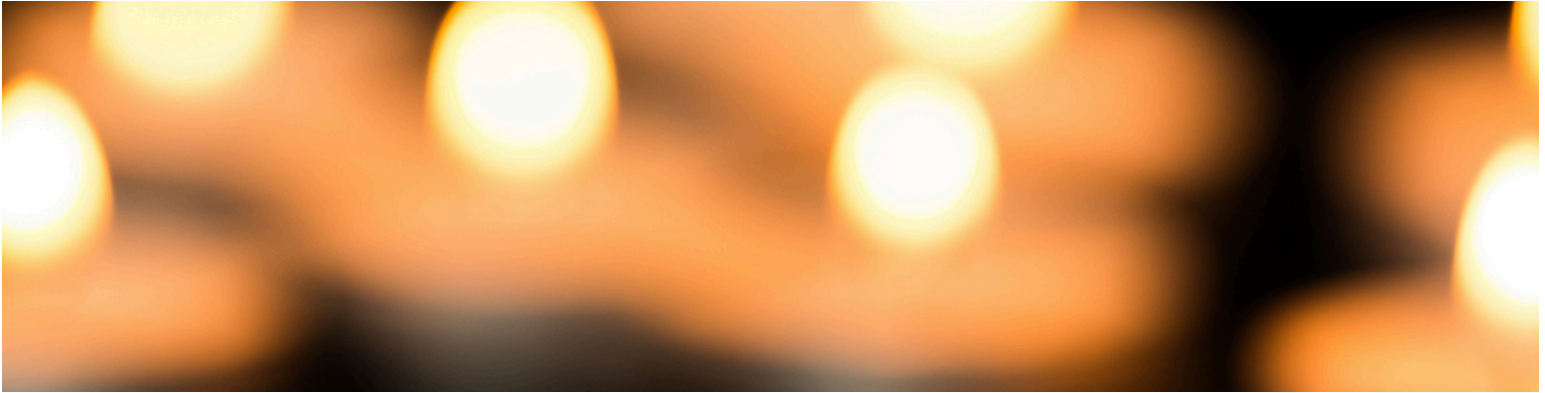
## **Crestview Devotions and Worship**

Join Chris and residents of Crestview for lively faith discussions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. You can also join us for worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. A willingness to sing heartily is appreciated! (And takes the pressure off Chris to be in rhythm and on key)!

## **Semi-Annual Earth Day Ditch Clean**

Join your West Branch Lions and local students for this important environmental ministry. Twice a year these groups band together to walk Herbert Hoover Highway between WB High School and Sharpless to pick up litter and make the highway as beautiful as possible! This year's event takes place on Wednesday April 22, 8:30-noon. Meet at WB High School Softball lot. Questions? Contact Greg Humrichouse at [greghumric@msn.com](mailto:greghumric@msn.com)

# Time for Prayer



## Joys & Concerns

### 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*

- *Michaela & Corinda Wolfram and family upon the death of their mother Mitch*
- *Jim Glasson and family upon the death of his “bonus Dad” Ron*
- *Julie’s brother Tom recovering from a heart transplant*
- *Joan has been recently diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer requiring surgery. Prayers for a speedy appointment.*
- *Eddie and Anita both living with pain. Prayers for more effective pain management techniques*
- *Doug’s sister-in-law Margie recovering from heart surgery*
- *Maxine’s niece Emily recently diagnosed with cancer*
- *Raghu for a sense of focus and purpose*
- *Kevin as he prepares for his hearing on April 20*
- *Shawn upon the death of his beloved dog and faithful companion – Brownie*
- *Fran back at home after a recent hospitalization and rehab stay*
- *Allan and Teresa as Allan continues treatment*

### Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for April

*Apr. 5-Apr. 11: The Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia*

*Apr. 12-Apr. 18: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania*

*Apr. 19-Apr. 25: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine*

*Apr. 26-May 2: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia*