

NOTES FROM FRIENDS

The monthly newsletter of West Branch Friends Church



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A Spirit of Curiosity

We have been exploring curiosity as the opposite of fear for a couple of weeks now. This subject continues to fascinate me. As I dig deeper, I run across all manner of quotes, essays, reflections... etc on curiosity.

Recently I ran across this statement: “Quakers often use Advices and Queries as tools for spiritual guidance and reflection. While not explicitly focused on curiosity, many Advices and Queries encourage open-mindedness, a willingness to question, and a commitment to learning and growing in the truth. They can be seen as a framework for cultivating a curious and discerning spirit.”

I have been pondering this for awhile now, and I think I really like the notion of cultivating a curious and discerning spirit. What do you think?

In this spirit, I would like to propose something for us over the coming months. What are you curious about? Could you turn that into a query for all of us to consider? I invite you to email me your queries at my new email: christine@homeforthewildsoul.com I will print a new one each month and we can all spend some time in open worship with Spirit considering your query (all queries will be printed anonymously). I will also create a response mechanism in this newsletter if you would like me to print responses to monthly queries. Let's give it a try! What do you think?



Query for the Month

“While not explicitly focused on curiosity, many Advices and Queries encourage open-mindedness, a willingness to question, and a commitment to learning and growing in the truth. They can be seen as a framework for cultivating a curious and discerning spirit.”

*What are you curious about? What is your
query right now?*

Meeting for Worship



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

This month we will explore parables and the power of story

Worship Servants

June 1
Greeter: Emily Peck
Zoom Host: Dick Hinkhouse
Children's Message: Sue McCracken
Special Music:
Piano: Elaine Wedeking

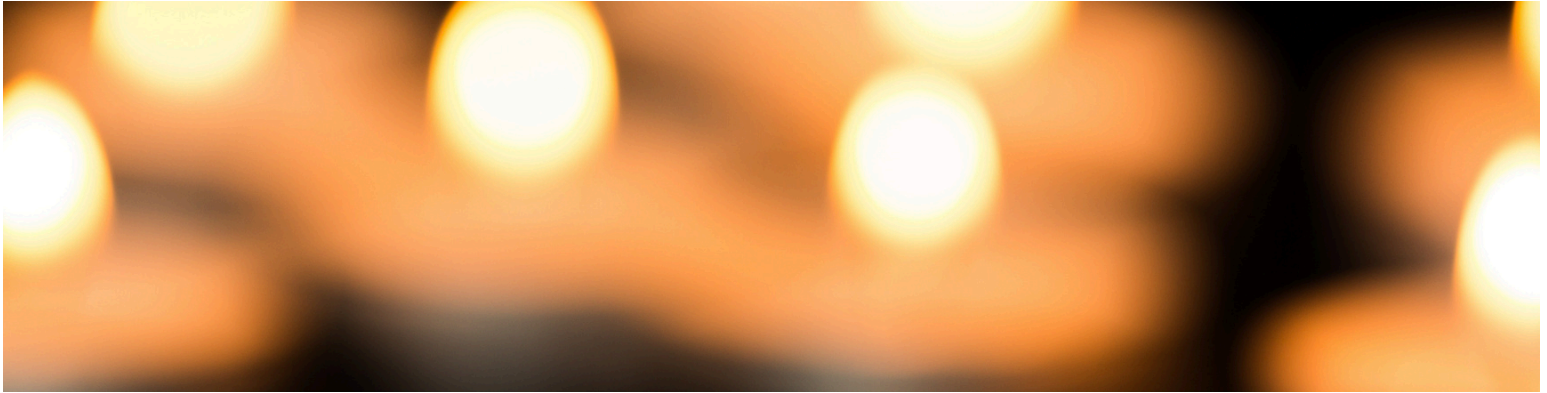
June 8 Peace & Justice Sunday
Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom Host: Maxine Koepf
Children's Message:
Special Music:
Piano: Julie Tallman

June 15
Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom Host: Jim Glasson
Children's Message: Kathleen Darling
Special Music:
Piano: Elaine Wedeking

June 22
Greeter:
Zoom:
Children's Message: Joan Blundall
Special Music:
Piano: Gwen Senio

June 29 (Fifth Sunday)
Message; Sue McCracken
Greeter: Gordon Edgar
Zoom Host:
Children's Message: Sue McCracken
Special Music:
Piano: Julie Tallman

Time for Prayer



Joys & Concerns

Pray for Our Elders

- Erick Painter has graduated high school.
- Mike T. gives thanks for all the prayers for his recent hospitalization.
- Gwen asks for prayers for her two living aunts – ages 100 and 96, as they deal with health issues.
- All our condolences to the family and friends of Ray Blue upon his recent death.
- Prayers for the Taylor Dunlap family upon his recent death.
- Julie shares her joy and thanks for her recent trip to Greece, and asks for prayers for her upcoming heart ablation.
- Nina T. having wisdom teeth removed.ch!

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

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for June

June 1-June 7: *Angola, Mozambique*
June 8-June 14: *Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini*
June 15-June 21: *Botswana, Zimbabwe*
June 22-June 28: *Malawi, Zambia*
June 29-July 5: *Kenya, Tanzania*

Prayer for June – Honest Faith by Kate Bowler

God, I am disappointed and embarrassed at what people get up to in the name of religion. My heart is thirsty for a faith I can trust. And I mean that. I don't trust the cultural scripts that turn religion into any game where somebody wins and somebody loses, and there is the strong scent of the entrepreneur. Somebody is selling something. And from the recesses of my mind from some very early encounter, I think I must have met the real you, God. That somehow I met goodness so pure it settled my heart to understand trustworthiness of a majesty and stature that thereafter I could accept no counterfeits. God, come and show yourself again. Show me faith that cannot be faked. Let me see you in the loveliness of others living out their faith so genuinely, so honestly, that you shine through. And if I can't get all the theology right, let me not worry too long. I suspect you'd rather I live honestly by the light of what I know to do that looks most like you, and keep quiet about the rest.

*Juneteenth
Celebrate Freedom
June 19*

*West Branch, Iowa
June 14-19, 2025*

*Celebrating the right to freedom for all Americans
and the role of West Branch in the history of this cause.*

*Events of the week:
June 14-19*

*Historic Displays at Black Rose Bookstore
Showing of the film, "Searching for Buxton"
during bookstore hours all week long*

*Saturday, June 14, 1:00 PM
Children's Story Hour and Activities
Black Rose Bookstore*

*Sunday, June 15, 2:00 PM
Community Choir Concert
"Commemorating Juneteenth in Song"
WB United Methodist Church
Thursday, June 19, 10:00 AM*

*Children's Story Hour and Activities
Black Rose Bookstore
Thursday, June 19, 5:00-7:00 PM*

*Tour of local historic spots on the Underground Railroad with docents in each
location.*

*Meet at Black Rose Bookstore for a bus ride or pick up a brochure and take a self-
guided tour.*

Wild Church

AKA: Friends of the Wild

The Wild Church Movement was launched after a group of thirty or so spiritual leaders from multiple denominations of the Christ tradition got together after quietly creating their own versions of wild church. They all had separately realized that they needed to stop trying to fix church as it is and start experimenting with what church could be.

This is more than simply “doing church outside.” With different influences and coming from diverse traditions, the leaders were fascinated to discover that what they were creating separately was remarkably aligned. For example, almost all of the groups, without checking with one another, included a time of solo wandering or sacred sauntering. During this time, they invited the small “wild” congregations to contemplatively connect with the trees, stones, creeks, and wild beings of each place and return to share with others. The shared desire was to stop simply talking *about* God and to offer opportunities for people to encounter God directly in nature.

If this sounds like YOU, we invite you to join us for our experience of Wild Church – and bring a friend!

Friends of the Wild
Sunday, June 8 4:00 pm
Boy Scout Picnic Shelter
Hoover Park

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Monthly meeting is a time when we meet to learn and discuss the business aspects of our meeting. We usually hold this meeting on the third Sunday of each month, following worship. This month, we will be moving the monthly meeting to the fourth Sunday due to Father’s Day and Juneteenth activities. Please plan to join us for important work on the business of our meeting.

Monthly Meeting for Business June 2025
Sunday, June 22 11:45 am