

March 2022

IOWA YEARLY MEETING



The Iowa Friend

Life that is Life Indeed—Manny Garcia

Now, some might be shocked to hear that what the “church”—the disciples gathered—really needs is not more people, more money, better buildings or programs, more education, or more prestige. Christ’s gathered people, the church, has always been at its best when it had little or none of these. All it needs to fulfill Christ’s purposes on earth is the quality of life he makes real in the life of his disciples. Given that quality, the church will prosper from everything that comes its way as it makes clear and available on earth the “life that is life indeed.”

—The Great Omission; Rediscovering Jesus’ Essential Teachings on Discipleship by Dallas Willard

It’s no secret that involvement in local churches has dwindled in the last decade or two. Add to that the complete derailment of any sort of community rhythm by the pandemic and we find ourselves at a rather gloomy point in the life of the church. I have seen attempts to jump start the momentum that was lost by adding more events, gatherings, advertisements, promotions, and the like. None of these things are bad or wrong in and of themselves, but neither are they the Church. If the quote above tells us anything it is that long before we had budgets, buildings, and busy event schedules, the church was doing just fine. As a matter of fact, it was thriving even as its adversaries were trying to snuff it out. In Acts 2:47, 5:14, 6:1, 6:7, 9:31, 11:21, 11:24, and 16:15 we see large numbers of people being brought into the gathering of disciples. And it wasn’t because they had a cool website or the best worship band in town. What drew people to want to be a part of this movement was a community experiencing the fullness of life, or as Dallas calls it, “life that is life indeed.”

Luke describes what this kind of life was like in Acts 2:42-47, following the birth of the Church; “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”

How far have we strayed from this image? How do we stack up against the original intent of God’s church and the way it was embodied by the earliest disciples? That’s not for me to say, but it would be a great query to hold in Holy Spirit led discernment in our local churches. Perhaps Dallas is right and what we need isn’t more money or programs. Perhaps what we need to see the Church prosper once again is for God’s people to commit themselves to being together to grow, learn, serve, share, eat, laugh, cry, play, and pray together. We miss the point when we remove any of these essential practices.

Since returning to Iowa Yearly Meeting, I have met with the Board on Church Extension several times. This group of people are dedicated to seeing our local churches become fruitful disciple-making movements. The ultimate goal is not unlike what we see in the book of Acts. We believe that a life of following Jesus as his disciple *is life indeed*, and we want as many people to experience that as possible. And our IAYM board on Church Extension wants to work with you to see that happen. Perhaps you are ready to wrestle with some of the questions mentioned above but would appreciate someone to help facilitate that discussion and discern just how to recalibrate your efforts as a church, they want to help. Or maybe you’d like some teaching or training on what healthy multiplication looks like, they want to help. It’s even possible that based on the current state of your local church, you have no imagination for what it would take to see a disciple-making movement take place in your area, they want to help.

You don’t have to go at it alone, we are better together. As a matter of fact, that’s the exact purpose of Iowa Yearly Meeting and our committed ministry minded boards, like Church Extension; we choose to work together to see our churches in Iowa Yearly Meeting become visible examples of the gathering of disciples that experience *life that is life indeed*. We believe that we can accomplish so much more when we work together.

Iowa Yearly Meeting—One Church.

For more information on how the Board on Church Extension can support your local churches, contact the IAYM office.

After We're Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning

A webinar on Thursday, March 31 at 2 pm and 8 pm

Caring for someone who is dependent due to a significant disability is a major responsibility. Making provisions for that person's physical, emotional, and financial well-being after the death of the caregiver can be complex and confusing. Anabaptist Disabilities Network will host a webinar in cooperation with Everence to help with estate planning for families with a dependent disabled family member.

"After We're Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning," Thursday, March 31 at 2 pm ET and 8 pm ET.

Register for the 2 pm session at: https://everence.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SMnIU6CnTGSSpgewlIIWgA

Register for the 8 pm session at: https://everence.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vyZuglEIQ2eYtVvUL6cT0w

The webinar will be recorded and can be watched later for those who register.

The webinar will be led by Dennis LeFevre, a financial planner and consultant for Everence, with hosts Jeanne Davies (ADN executive director), Lyle Miller (Everence), and Mitchell Stutzman (Everence, ADN Board of Directors).

USFW Spring Fling Motor Friends 9:30 am April 23rd, 2022

RENEWAL OF HOPE

Afternoon missions project

The PAD project for Africa

For our afternoon service project at Spring Fling we will be making reusable sanitary pads for the girls and women of Kenya. This project is in partnership with the Regional USFW of Indiana. For our project we will need the following items. If you or your society are able to help provide any of these items or if you have questions about this project, please contact

gwersenio@gmail.com.

Sewing machine

Size 14 (Denim) sewing machine needle

Cutting board and rotary cutter

Sewing scissors

Lightweight cotton flannel fabric

Lightweight cotton batting without scrim (such as Warm and Natural brand)

Thread, neutral colors like black or white

Sewing scissors

Pins

Sew-on Snaps

Regular needles for hand-sewing on the snaps



LuVena Mae Bennett, 89, of Redfield, Iowa passed away February 14, 2022. LuVena was born March 9, 1932, to John Edwin and LuVena Burl (Secoy) Knapp in Stuart, Iowa. She grew up in and graduated from Stuart High School with the class of 1950. She was united in marriage to Howard Bennett on June 4, 1950, in Stuart and together they became the proud parents of eight children: Howard Jr., Ellen, Gwen, Tim, Tony, Tom, Carol and Crystal. After their marriage they made their home in Redfield.

She was a lifelong member of the Friends Church in Stuart, which was a source of inspiration and hope for her. She enjoyed gardening, canning vegetables, sewing, reading her bible every morning, nature watching, avid Hawkeye fan and spending time with her family and friends.



Joseph William Shepherd, known to all as "Bill", aged 90, died December 20, 2021. He was born in Bethesda, Ohio on April 29, 1931 to William Keenan Shepherd and Helen (Price) Shepherd. He graduated from Bethesda High School in 1949 and attended Miami University of Ohio.

He received his bachelor's in accounting and went to work for General Motors in Flint, Michigan.

Bill served in the US Army from January 1955 until December 1956 and was stationed in Germany. After his return home and to work, he felt the call to ministry and attended Garrett Theological Seminary, graduating in 1966.

Bill married Alice Ann Busse on April 24, 1971. In retirement, he did pulpit supply at Friends Community Church in Sturgeon Bay. Then in 2003, he "flunked" retirement and became the full-time pastor there for eight years.

He was committed to community service and loved to visit with family and friends. He is remembered for the positive impact he had on people's lives through his ministry, counseling, and care.

Friends Summit 2023

KINGDOM. MISSION. PASSION.

Conversations that could change your life!
December 28, 2023-January 1, 2024, Houston, TX
Evangelical Friends Church-North America (EFC-NA)



Friends Summit is all about the movement. The movement among young adult Friends. The church movement. The Kingdom. Summit is a national conference for young adults to experience how the reality of God's kingdom is calling the Friends Church in mission and engaging us with passion.

Kingdom. Mission. Passion.

Summit is a conference that is designed around conversations that will celebrate and fuel the movement; from engaging worship sessions to quiet moments of prayer, from teaching to discussion groups, from Coffee House themes to simple moments with a friend. Our stories provoke the conversation. Conversations that capture the imagination. Conversations that draw out our passion for the mission of the Kingdom. Summit will host conversations that shape the church. Conversations that could change your life!

Who is Summit for?

Young Adults ages 16-25 who:

- Are emerging leaders who desire to follow Jesus and want to see His redeeming Kingdom on Earth
- Wish to take the next steps to grow in the way they serve and lead within the church and community
- Are willing to imagine with others what the Friends Church could become for future generations

Mentor/Advocates who:

- Have a mutually positive relationship with young adults
- Is coming from and returning with young adult/s to the same local church/area
- Is a "weighty Friend" who is a spiritual leader
- Is interested in innovation, a good listener, likes to engage to help process
- Might already be working closely with young adults, or might be an influential person in the church who doesn't specifically serve with youth or young adult ministries but could be an effective bridge or voice between young adults and the greater Body.

What can participants expect at Summit?

- To be equipped with a growing understanding of spiritual leadership and how it works in the life of a Friends leader. How do we become people who can lead Friends into a future filled with dangerous opportunity?
- An environment that gives freedom to dream for the kingdom and church, and practice discerning next steps. How do we discern what God might do through us in the local church, in our communities, and throughout the world, for God's Kingdom?
- An inter-generational relationship with leaders, ministries, and resources connected to the Friends Movement. What might happen if young adults with a vision had partners, support, and resources from existing Friends ministries?

2022-2023 Kaleo Cohort Recruiting Underway!

We are looking for high school students in evangelically-minded Friends Churches who are interested in diving deeper into their calling and leadership. The next Kaleo Cohort begins with Theology Camp on the campus of Barclay College June 23rd-29th, 2022. Contact Brockie Follette to nominate a student at:

brockie.follette@barclaycollege.edu

Kaleo 2.0 Summer Ministry Interns

This summer we are continuing our Ministry Internship program called Kaleo 2.0 and we hope to place at least two of our Kaleo Academy Alumni in ministry at a Friends Church this summer. Our dream is for many of the young leaders who complete Kaleo Academy to one day serve in a ministry internship within a Friends Church. Contact Katy Moran for more information about this program at:

katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu

WE NEED TO PRAY TOGETHER: Psalm 46 for those suffering in Ukraine now.

IAYM Christian Social Concerns Committee recognizes the need to strive for peace in our world. On Thursday, February 24, Russia attacks Ukraine. It has led to several deaths, families leaving their homes and fleeing to other countries. Families are being divided and some are being left behind which may result in more deaths.

Our Iowa Yearly Discipline (our statement of doctrine) states: We are bound explicitly to avow our unshaken persuasion that all war is utterly incompatible with our Divine Lord and Lawgiver.

"Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the chariots with fire. "Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; God is our fortress."

Yearly Meeting 2022

July 27-30th

Oskaloosa, IA

Inspired by the Past to Impact the Future

Spring

With each unfolding seed, with every Spring,
He breathes the rumour of His resurrection,
As birdsong calls your hidden heart to sing.
So may this season be His benediction,
To lift your love, and bid your prayer take wing,
To thaw your frozen hope, to warm your mind,
For Spring has come! Can Heaven be far behind?

~ Malcolm Guite

Calendar

March 26 -Spring Body

of Representative @ Grinnell Friends
9:30 am Roll Call

Meal \$7 BBQ, salad, dessert

April 9—Camp Workday

April 23 - USFW Spring Fling

@ Motor Friends
9:30 am

"Renewal of Hope"

May 21st—Camp Cookie Day

July 28-30 Yearly Meeting

@ William Penn

Inspired by the Past
To Impact the Future

HEBREWS 11:13



Traveling Thru
CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS

LITTLE FRY CAMP (GRADES K-2) JUNE 10-12 / ELEMENTARY CAMP (GRADES 3-5) JUNE 23-26
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP (GRADES 6-8) JUNE 12-16 / HIGH SCHOOL CAMP (GRADES 9-12) JUNE 17-22

CANOEING - HIKING - SWIMMING - CARPET BALL - DISC GOLF - MINI PUTT - BIKING - ARCHERY



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"The Body of IAYM exists to exalt Jesus Christ by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and expressing God's love by serving all people (John 15:1-17)."