

The Iowa Friend Newsletter

This article in the weekly email, but seemed appropriate to share in the newsletter. Care for and indulge your pastor during this time. They work hard and deserve the added attention more than you may ever know!

[** means edited the article for space restraints]--The original article can be found at <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2018/october-web-only/>

What Your Pastor Won't Tell You (But Wishes You Knew) About Pastor Appreciation Month

Dear Church-goer;

****Leadership guru Peter Drucker said this:** Over the years I have made a career out of studying the most challenging management roles out there. After all of that I am now convinced the two most difficult jobs in the world are these—one, to be President of the United States, and two, to be the leader a church.

Ministry is an amazing call, full of great joys and significant moments in people's lives: officiating weddings, presiding over funerals, seeing first-hand how lives are changed for Christ. But it's also full of tension: intense conflict, unrealistic expectations, relational strain, and, at times, soul-aching loneliness.

**** Here are a few things your pastor is probably thinking, but won't tell you during Pastor Appreciation Month.**

Whether or not your church recognizes Pastor Appreciation Month, it's on your pastor's mind.

Pastor Appreciation Month (originally called Clergy Appreciation Month) was established in 1992 by a group of pastors and church leaders to honor those who serve in ministry. They grounded the celebration in Paul's words to Timothy: "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). No, it's not an official holiday, but it is nationally recognized, like Boss Appreciation Day and Administrative Assistant Day. And chances are, your pastor is thinking about it this month.

Last year a pastor called me on November 1. When I asked my friend how he was doing he said, "Another year, another Pastor Appreciation Month ..." his voice trailing off into silence. I knew exactly what he was saying. He wasn't fishing for compliments or looking to be congratulated, but he couldn't hide his disappointment. He felt invisible, like his congregation was taking him for granted. "As long as people are pleased," he told me, "they say nothing."

This pastor is not self-serving. He's humble, faithful, and gracious. But during that phone call, I realized that one of the greatest gifts someone in his church could have given him at that moment would have been a simple, handwritten card or a quick text of gratitude for his faithfulness to the congregation. I was also struck by another thought: *How was the congregation supposed to know he was in such need of encouragement?*

Pastors feel conflicted about Pastor Appreciation Month:

Pastors who serve with proper motives feel like they can't say anything about Pastor Appreciation Month—especially to those in their own churches. Doing so would seem grossly self-serving. Can you imagine your pastor stepping up to the pulpit on Sunday and saying, "Good morning, church. Before I begin my sermon, I want to remind you this month is Pastor Appreciation Month. And, if you're wondering, I'd love some gift cards to Starbucks"? Of course not.

I transitioned out of my pastoral role in the local church about a year ago. I now focus on caring for and investing in hungry kingdom leaders—mostly pastors and church planters. I've thought about writing this article for years, but I

never could do so while serving within a local church. It felt too self-serving and ... complicated. My family and I were part of a healthy church. I was loved and supported, and I'm deeply grateful for dear people in our congregation. But most Octobers I couldn't stave off these conflicted feelings. I share these things on behalf of pastors who feel what I once felt but who do not feel comfortable saying anything about it.

You don't have to go all-out for Pastor Appreciation Month.

You don't have to throw a big party, invest a great deal of time, or take up a collection to send your pastor on a two-week Caribbean vacation (although I am sure no pastor would complain if you did). Instead, it's the little things that matter. Here are a few of the most memorable gifts I received from people in our church for Pastor Appreciation Month. Hopefully they'll inspire you to think outside the box to show your pastor how much you care.

****Two years ago, a gentleman used his company's allotted season tickets to bring me and another pastor to a Sunday evening Eagles-Giants football game. It didn't cost him a great deal of money since the tickets were available for his use, but it would have cost me and the other pastor an arm and a leg. It's important for pastors to have fun and sometimes to just hang out. It was a shared memory with good friends that remains with me.**

Last year a landscaper in our church planted tulip bulbs in our yard. I love flowers, and he knew it. When they bloomed this spring, I smiled each time I walked by them as I was reminded that he and his family were grateful for us. I felt seen, loved, and appreciated.

****continued on next page****

Each expression was intentional and thoughtful. Gift cards are great, but these gifts were especially significant because they were creative and original.

Pastors have told me they wept tears of joy when they read an out-of-the-blue note of encouragement. Whatever you do—a sincere Facebook shout out, a two-minute word of affirmation during the Sunday announcements, a heart-felt email, a handwritten note, or an arm around your pastor in the hallway between services—know it carries more weight than you may realize.

Pastors don't always get this ministry thing right. They may not preach as well as you prefer, pray as much as you deserve, counsel as well as you need, or lead as well as you desire. They know this because they feel it deep in their bones and because congregants are often quick to tell them so. Ministry can be difficult.

Still, most pastors are trying their best to serve and lead and pray and listen and preach and love as faithfully as they can. They won't say publicly that they think about Pastor Appreciation Month every October, but many of the pastors I talk with do. Everyone needs a little encouragement now and then. That includes your pastor.

Sincerely—J. R. Briggs (founder of Kairos Partnerships)
He served for 10 years as pastor of The Renew Community in the greater Philadelphia area.



Do something rather than nothing! Know your pastors interests, write a card, give a gift (or gift card), and just simply let your pastor know that you notice...and they are appreciated!

**--Blessings, Tom Showalter,
IAYM Superintendent**

July 12-18, 2020
at a conference center
in Kisumu, Kenya.

Save The Date

**The theme
is
Come,
Abide,
Go.**



The IAYM Nominating committee will lead the process of naming IAYM representatives to the Triennial July 12-18, 2020. This will be officially done at next year's Spring Body. Cost will be in the range of \$2000-\$2200. An appeal will be issued to assist in representative's attendance.



Motor Friends Church

turns 150 years old this year!

Sunday November 10th

and we would like to invite our friends from around Iowa Yearly Meeting to join us on that special day.

Please watch for more information in the days to come and mark your calendars.

International Friends Church—Minneapolis

After a lengthy process of securing a Pastoral Visa and travel arrangements from Kenya—we would like to welcome Patrick and Silira Muganga to Iowa Yearly Meeting!





Lydia Martin, daughter of Mike & Charlene Martin, was married to Victor Habib, son of Paul & Benita Habib on June 1, 2019. Lydia, her parents, and her grandparents, Neil & Peggy Martin, are all members of Bangor Liberty Friends. The couple will make their home in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Soren Michael Chase was born on 7/3/19 to Emma & Michael Chase of Bangor Liberty Friends. He has an older sister, Thea. Soren's grandparents are Randall & Denise Nichols (Middle River Friends) and Bob and Michele Chase, (Marshalltown Friends). Great-grandparents include Ann & Charles Nichols (Bangor Liberty Friends), Del and (the late MaryAnn) Erma Coppinger (College Avenue Friends).

Porter James Matney was born on 5/25/19 to Blake & Alicia Matney of Bangor Liberty Friends. He has an older brother, Parker, and an older sister, Paige. Porter's grandparents are Chris Springer (Bangor Liberty) and Rusty & Jamie Matney, Liscomb. Great-Grandparents include Lyle Springer (Marshalltown) and Carolyn Mills (Ecuador).

Korie Jo Box was born on 6/4/19 to Donnie & Kelsey Box of Bangor Liberty Friends. She has an older brother, Weston. Korie's grandparents are Joe & Kay Feltz (Bangor Liberty) and Donnie & Tonya Box, Liscomb. Great-grandparents include James & Sharon Johnson (Bangor Liberty), Bill & Jan Davis, Liscomb, and Linda Arnold, St. Anthony.

In Memory of Marjorie Beane

Marjorie Wilma (Rosedale) Beane, 97, passed away peacefully on the morning of Tuesday, September 3, 2019. Born December 6, 1921 at the family's farm in Cloverdale. She was the daughter of Oliver and Andrea (Roensstad) Rosedale. She was the 13th child of 15. She graduated from LeGrand High School and attended Central Iowa Business College. She worked in various secretarial positions including Farm Bureau, Records Office and the Driver's License Department of Marshall County, and typed for her brother's tax office during tax season. On January 24, 1943 Marjorie married Donald Beane, a classmate from LeGrand. They farmed in Green Mountain and LeGrand and retired in LeGrand.



Church was always important to Marjorie. She read her Bible every day. As a child, she was a member of the Stavanger Friends Church. After marriage, she transferred to the LeGrand Friends Church where she taught Sunday School, chaired the kitchen committee and was an active member. She was also a member of USFW and several clubs in the LeGrand area. Marjorie wrote a book of poetry, composed music for family birthdays, was a wonderful cook and helped in all aspects of farming with her husband. She and Donald were blessed to travel to all fifty states, numerous European countries, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, St. Thomas, the Bahamas, and Russia.

She was preceded in death by her husband Donald (2007), son Charles Donald and her parents. She is survived by four children--Barbara (Dale Burkheimer), Linda (Francis Beyea), Dennis (Kathryn Wilson), Donna (James Hoeksema); 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Does your
Meeting
Have a
Group
Picture that
Can be
Shared in
our news?



**On-line registration is now available at
Camp Quaker Heights' website for the
following events!**

*Pastors Retreat *All Boards Retreat

Pastors Retreat and Conference Registration

Oct 18-22, 2019

Speaker: Ron Klassen

All Boards Retreat Registration

Nov 1-2, 2019

be still

AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

PSALMS 46-18



Quaker Camps—Summer 2019

More pictures of all the summer camp fun can be
found on the camp website
(campquakerheights.org)

To all of the summer staff, camp
counselors, the Daleske family, vol-
unteers who prepare our camp for
the season...

To Bethany Hadley & Anthony Nieu-
wsma and the Young Friends
board...

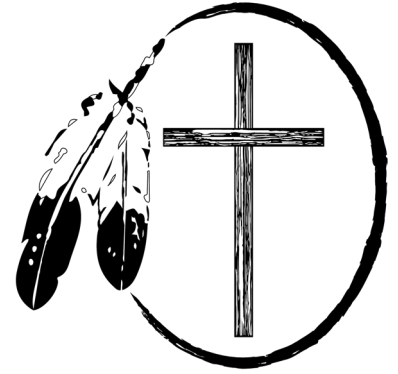
To all the families who support the
ministry of our Camp Quaker
Heights!

THANK YOU!



“We Sew”

2019 Mission Board Thanksgiving Offering



The rich history of women gathering together is ancient and universal. It is a natural response for women to sit together to pray, to create, to share burdens & joys & laughter & tears in the sacred way of women.

Our Meskwaki friends have a very rich heritage in sewing, beading, weaving and more. Yet some have not learned the skills of these traditional arts. Some do not have the resources or space to create on their own. Some have the skills to teach. And some seek the time spent with other women to practice these skills together in fellowship.

After a time of building relationships and listening to hearts, God has provided this wonderful opportunity at Mesquakie Friends to provide a sacred space for the Igweaki Nikani (Women Friends).

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Thanksgiving offering will be designated to bless such a gathering of Women Friends. The collection will go to buy sewing machines and essential needs to begin this wonderful ministry.

The rich history of women gathering together reminds me of Lydia from the Bible in Acts 16:13-14:

“On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God.”

I Thank you in advance for your generosity of this Thanksgiving offering, which, to me, speaks of a timely work of reconciliation to our 1st Nations Igweakiq. May the Holy Spirit guide your hearts and may you be blessed abundantly.



Berny McDonald,
The pretty Co-Director of Mesquakie Friends

THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657
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October 2019

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Oskaloosa, Iowa
Permit No. 544

Change
Service Requested

"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)."

Subscription Price (individual)...\$10.00 per year (group)...\$9.50 per year Published monthly except August

{CALENDAR} OF EVENTS

2019—2020 Iowa Yearly Meeting Calendar of Events

- October 3-5: **FUM Board** in Richmond, IN
- October 12-13: Winneshiek **Quarterly Meeting** at Valton Friends Church
- October 4-6: **Man Camp** @ CQH
- October 18-22: **Pastor's Retreat & Conference**
- November 2: **All-Boards Retreat**

- January 25, 2020: **BOC Zoom Meeting**
- Feb 22, 2020: **Quaker Men's Winter Banquet** with Van Harden (from WHO radio) as speaker
- March 28: **Spring Body Meeting** @ Grinnell Friends Church
- March 30-April 3: **Beane Lecture & Pastor's Short Course**

July 12-18, 2020: **FUM Triennial** in Kisumu, Kenya (<https://www.friendsunitedmeeting.org/connect/triennial>)

- Nov. 11-13, 2020: **Church Multiplication Conference**
- **Camp Dates 2020: Little Fry June 12-14 Elementary June 25-28**

Middle School June 14-18 High School June 19-24

Visit iaym.org and view our calendar page for more 2019 events!