



- September 10-12th
Family Camp @ CQH

- October 1-3
Man Camp @ CQH

- September 24-25th
USFW Fall Retreat
@ CQH

- October 24-25th
Pastors Fall Retreat @ CQH

- November 6th
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The Iowa Friend

**"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)."**

Grab a Shovel—by Manny Garcia, General Superintendent

Hello, Iowa Yearly Meeting!

What a joy to be writing to you all this morning. If you haven't had a chance to meet me yet, my name is Manny Garcia and I'm the new General Superintendent for our community of Friends in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. I am incredibly grateful to be in this role and I want you to know that I love Iowa Yearly Meeting, I love ministry, and I love Jesus with all of my heart, soul, mind, and strength. It is my sincere desire to journey alongside of each of you as you do your part to more fully reveal God's kingdom in your spheres of influence. There is much work to be done, and I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get my hands dirty for the sake of the gospel!

And that leads me to sharing my first thoughts with you via the *Iowa Friend*.

As I've considered the landscape of the Church today there are some things that come to mind. We continue to be impacted by the pandemic, the political landscape is as tumultuous as ever, and we are self-dividing ourselves into groups and factions that lead to a deepening of the turmoil rather than a reconciling of humanity. These are not just the Church's issues, but the Church *should have a response that is not of this world. Of all of the places one should be able to go to escape the reign of darkness in the world, it should be within the community of those who call themselves Friends of Jesus. This, of course, is easier said than done because when humans are involved, we tend to sprinkle in our ideologies, experiences, and preferences. And we can't*

turn these off, because they are part of who we are. Even so, they are not our identity, and that's the kicker. As friends of Jesus, our identity is in Whose we are, not in who we are. We belong to Jesus. He bought us with a great price, and because of that, when we choose to accept the invitation to follow Him, we are changed forever. New creations. Holy and set apart.

What I'm getting at here is, we have a higher calling than what we see in the world. We're called to be better than what we see being played out on the field of social media or the news cycle or the corner store. The flag we should be flying doesn't have the last name of a politician on it, but it has the blood of the Lamb of God covering it. Jesus clearly taught us that we cannot serve two masters, yet we often try very hard to do just that.

Here's where I'm at in all of this. I have a great deal of hope that there are groups of people out there in our Friends meetings who "get it." There are people who are ready to embody something that looks and smells different than the world we're living in. That thing is the kingdom of God and Jesus taught us that it's here and now. If we are pursuing Christ, then you and I have the capacity within us to bring the kingdom of God with us wherever we go. And if we are pursuing something other than Christ, we have the capacity to misrepresent God's kingdom. It is a weighty responsibility, but one that we agree to when we say "yes" to Jesus' invitation to follow Him. My deepest hope, prayer, and conviction is that Iowa Yearly Meeting is poised to represent God's rule and reign in the ways that we

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Memorials

Jeanette C. Roe, 83, of Clemons, IA passed away Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at the Hubbard Care Center in Hubbard, IA. She was a member of Bangor-Liberty Friends Church.



Jeanette was born in North Hollywood, California on January 9, 1938 to Raymond and Marian (Worthing) Yunker. All of her formative years were spent growing up in North Hollywood, California. This is where she met the love of her life, Robert Alan Roe. They were united in marriage on March 8, 1958 and remained married for 61 years until the passing of Robert in 2020.

live, love, and serve. I am here because that is truly what I believe. I am here because I think we can once again see God's kingdom come and His will being done in the areas where we serve.

As I pray for Iowa Yearly Meeting, I keep reflecting on the drought that was affecting the armies of the allied kings of Israel, Judah, and Edom as they were battling the Moabites in 2 Kings 3. These guys were in serious trouble. They joined forces thinking that they'd easily whip their enemies, but that was anything but true. Instead of winning easily, they march for seven days, wandering in the desert, and they realize they are totally and completely out of water. They're about to die of thirst, their animals are going to die of thirst, and there isn't a drop of water in sight. They have a very significant need.

Now these kings weren't following God prior to this, but now, all of sudden, when they're in trouble, they do what a lot of us do; "God I know you haven't heard from me in a while, but I'm in trouble. Can you help me?" And as they are considering how to get in touch with God, an officer of the king remembers, "Elisha is God's prophet, maybe he can help."

So, they go to Elisha and, after giving them some attitude (which is great by the way, you should read your Bible, there's good stuff in there!), he agrees to help. Elisha calls for some background music and begins to prophesy (2 Kings 3:16-19 NKJV): "Thus says the Lord: 'Make this valley full of ditches.' For thus says the Lord: 'You shall not see wind, nor shall you see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water, so that you, your cattle, and your animals may drink.' And this is a simple matter in the sight of the Lord; He will also deliver the Moabites into your hand. Also, you shall attack every fortified city and every choice city, and shall cut down every good tree, and stop up every spring of water, and ruin every good piece of land with stones."

God's word to the kings was not, "Ok, I'll bail you out, there is a lake over that hill," or, "Hang tight, rain is on the way." Instead, God had work for them to do. An act of both faith and collaboration. Make this valley full of ditches. I know you're tired and dehydrated and the last thing you want to do as you prepare for battle is manual labor, but if you want water, I need you to make this valley full of ditches. Oh, and by the way, not only will I fill this valley with water, but while I'm at it, I'll deliver the Moabites into your hand.

There are things about the world that we want to be different. We want our churches and meetings to be impactful. We want to see reconciliation and transformation happening in our communities. Perhaps we've even thought that by aligning ourselves with this person or that ideology, that we can easily whip our enemies. But instead, we find ourselves in a spiritual drought and we long for our thirst to be quenched. And in the midst of all of that, I am sensing that God is saying to us, "The water is coming, but I need you to prepare the ground for it. Be faithful to the work of my kingdom. Grab a shovel and dig in, because not only am I going to bring the water, but I'm going to do much more than that. Be ready."

And that's what I want to do with you. I want to help make sure our meetings and churches are ready. I want to help you dig whatever ditches need to be dug in your congregations, in your communities, in your families, and in your own life so that when revival comes, we are ready. Renewal is so much more than waiting on God to just show up and fix it all for us. We are co-laborers with Christ. We have work to do. Are you ready to dig? Are you ready to give what you have and who you are to the cause of the kingdom of God?

The best is yet to come, my friends. Grab a shovel.




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Lynnville Friends Church Summer Youth Events –



FOCUS 7th & 8th grade mission trip to Chicago

7th and 8th grade FOCUS youth group students were given the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Chicago on August 6-11. Four students and chaperones, Jer Schnell and Camryn Russell, made the five-hour drive arriving in a Chicago neighborhood called North Kenwood on Friday evening. The FO-

CUS mission team does not go through

a missions organization for this particular trip. It has been fun to see God at work through building connections made over the past 7-8 years.

The first connection is Pastor Luke Dudenhoeffer of New Life Community Church Bridgeport. Jer met him several years ago when he spoke at a high school camp at Camp Quaker Heights. The two stayed in contact and each year Pastor Luke has the FOCUS mission team help in various ways around their church along with attending their Sunday morning service. This year, the team purchased groceries and made sandwiches to give to a homeless community. Marcus, a member of the church, led the team through this experience taking them to where he once spent some of his time. Marcus himself was homeless for 40 years. His testimony is incredible and involves a persistent Pastor Luke reaching out and coming alongside him about ten years ago. Marcus brings God into every conversation, and his passion for the Lord is contagious. The youth always find his message and outlook on life inspiring.

The next connection was made through New Life Community Church. They support a ministry called Englewood Family Outreach. Their mission is to restore their communities in Englewood by proclaiming Christ, training in godliness, and empowering the vulnerable. They have been part of the Englewood community for 30 years. Daniel Bair, Executive Director, puts the mission team to work through helping with projects around the property, community prayer walks, and building relationships with the kids in the community. This year they cleaned in the basement and picked up trash along the streets of the property. They had water balloon fights and played basketball and pool with the kids that came to hang out. The team had an opportunity to pray with a lady while on their prayer walk.

Each evening the FOCUS mission team had small group devotional time and debriefing about the day along with God sightings. The focus each day was to be present. The team also incorporated some fun sightseeing into this trip. Saturday evening, they went to Navy Pier, had deep dish pizza and enjoyed the views of the city. Sunday afternoon they hung out at the beach and got to experience the cold water of Lake Michigan.

This is a trip that continues to be impactful every time, and kids come home with a new appreciation for the life that they have. The group bonded well and spent a lot of time growing closer to each other and their relationship with the Lord. These trips are humbling and rewarding and a reminder of what a blessing it is to be able to serve others. The team's goal is to remember that their mission field is their everyday life, their own communities, and not just a trip to Chicago.

– FOCUS high school mission trip to Rapid City, SD

Early Sunday morning, July 25, the Lynnville Friends Church FOCUS mission team headed out for Rapid City, SD. The team consisted of nine high school students and chaperones, Jer and Jodi Schnell. They arrived at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, which was their residence for the week. Students were able to get a little taste of dorm life while also meeting up with several other groups that had also signed up through Mission Discovery. These groups came from Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts, and Minnesota and ranged from a father/daughter to couples and families. Mission Discovery is the organization the Lynnville Friends FOCUS youth have used for many years. Mission Discovery partners with local ministries and organizations, lines up the work, makes the arrangements for all the accommodations and provides a coordinator that also leads the evening worship services.



The first day consisted of getting the groups organized and visiting the organization they would be helping throughout the week, Love INC of the Black Hills. The director provided a tour and explained how this ministry has grown from sharing a small building in 2015 to purchasing and remodeling an old car dealership. The Schnell's brought FOCUS students to help Love INC in 2015 and 2019, so seeing how they have been blessed to continue expansion and opening up more ministry opportunities was incredible. Love INC – INC stands for In The Name of Christ – offers adult education classes, a furniture ministry where people can earn furniture, an adventure and bike repair store, after school programs, and a furniture and décor store where volunteers refurbish old furniture for Love INC to resell. There are Love INC locations throughout the U.S.

The FOCUS team was tasked with helping organize, build shelving, and maintenance repairs at Love INC's warehouse. They were also able to go on several furniture deliveries where they were able to pray with people that were donating as well as those receiving. It was a busy week with temperatures in the upper nineties but the team was able to cool down in the evenings with Mission Discovery leading a worship service followed by small group discussions....and often times a trip to a local ice cream shop!

The team was also blessed to be able to help with a Bible school in a local Lakota neighborhood. Rapid City is home to thousands of Lakota Indians who have moved from the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations in search of better opportunities. Mission Discovery made a connection with a pastor that used to minister to that neighborhood prior to being called out of state. This pastor was able to be there this week, which was the connection needed to have the Bible school. God worked in amazing ways through connections with a local teacher that also came alongside. This gave parents and students a comfort level. The FOCUS team was able to work in the community in 2015 and 2019, so it was fun to see how several children remembered and were excited to see their Iowa friends.

The Lakota neighborhood center had not been opened for 18 months due to COVID, so the team set out to clean up the building and grounds first while also handing out flyers about the Bible school. The next three days were spent playing games, doing crafts, acting out Bible stories and simply sharing God's love. The team finished up the last afternoon by staining a deck for a lady that lived near the center who's granddaughter had attended VBS. The entire group felt her gratefulness and how the week had meant so much to her and her granddaughter.

Friday was a fun day where the team went to Bear Country USA, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Sylvan Lake, Needles Highway, and Custer State Park. They were able to drive through the Badlands on Saturday's drive home.

The students formed new and stronger friendships throughout the week. Mission Discovery strongly encourages students to leave their phones and other electronics at home. We have held to that and year after year, students are initially concerned about it, but it ends up that they all enjoy the break. When there is free time, they talk to each other, play games and each year it reinforces that it's a good thing. The FOCUS team had an amazing week seeing God at work through interactions at Love INC, the Lakota neighborhood, and the various teams of people that all came alongside Mission Discovery to serve as well as through His amazing creation.

An Outreach Testimony—

written by Beverly Gerdtz, pastor at Bloomington Muscatine Friends

To begin my story, I have to state that I LOVE FIREWORKS! On the evening of July 4, 2020 my husband, my mother, my grandson and I were in our back yard. My husband and grandson were shooting off the fireworks we had purchased a few days before. As we watched the exploding bursts of color I said “We should have done this out at church and invited the congregation to come watch.”

My husband then reminded me that with the COVID scare and restrictions occurring at that time, no one would have come. I filed the idea away for next year. That should have been the end of it, but I couldn't let it go. The idea in my mind was now growing bigger. The July event should include a meal as well as fireworks. The idea was now forming into a full-fledged outreach opportunity.

It was at this point that I had to stop and ask myself “Is this what God wants?” There is only one way to know and that is to ask and pray.

The pieces began falling into place. The idea was presented to the Ministry & Council Board, they approved the plan. The idea was presented to the Monthly Meeting and they were asked to begin to think of the people we needed to reach.

It would go like this. Gather names of those who had drifted away from church, along with friends and family who had no church background, set a specific day and time each week and asked the congregation to join me in prayer. People on this list would be invited to a fireworks party on July 3rd. While prayer should happen all the time, this one united day would bring these names to the forefront. The school district my grandson attends was providing a monthly food package, courtesy of an anonymous donor. Each of these food boxes included a package of hot dogs. The hot dogs were beginning to pile up in the freezer. During one of my planning talks with my husband, he pointed out we had all those hot dogs we could use for the party.

Spring came and with it garden season. My husband does custom garden tilling. My husband said, “I feel that God wants me to save all the tilling income and put that towards the fireworks.”

This is the first time; in the 11 years he has done tilling, that half of his clients paid him more than the quoted price. Each of those who over paid made some sort of comment that it would have cost them more to rent the equipment than they had been quoted.

If I had any doubts, that this was God's plan, those doubts were fading. The doors just kept opening. The list of

names was growing, people were praying, the food was being provided, the money for the fireworks was adding up.

The Salvation Army, on occasion, distributes produce to the community. After one of these distributions, we ended up with a full case of lemons. We ended up squeezing the entire box of lemons and canning the juice. This juice became the base for gallons of lemonade. During one visit to the Salvation Army, the staff said they could provide the buns, from the donation they receive semiweekly. Our church members volunteered to provide cookies for the event.

In June we mailed 20 written invitations, additionally invitations were sent out to email and Facebook contacts. Each invitation encouraged people to bring their family and friends.

My husband said to me more than once, “I don't know how many people will show up, I just don't want you to get your hopes up and be disappointed.”

A few days before the event my mother asked “How many do you expected?” I laughed and said I know I will have four for sure (her, my husband and grandson, and myself).

On the night of June 3rd; we had great weather; clear skies, calm to light winds and a temperature which peaked in the low 80s. The tables were set up: hot dogs, buns and condiments; lemonade, iced tea and bottled water to drink; hot chicken quarters and turkey hot dogs; and, a wide variety of cookies and pastries. The fireworks (mortars, fountains, colorful cakes) were staged. One car pulled in, and then another, and still more. We ended the night with 34 people attending; most of those who came that evening had not attended church regularly, if at all. The evening was such a blessing, God was in control. He softened hearts and made them receptive to his call. The fireworks were shot off for more than an hour. From our location at the church's hillside parking lot, we could also see neighboring fireworks displays, from left to right all across the horizon.

What was the end result? I have no idea. God is in control. I just know that I feel the need to start planning a fall event. God has a plan. I just do the ground work.

It all began in a field (church yard) for Jesus himself said, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his har-