

May 2022



IOWA YEARLY MEETING

The Iowa Friend

ORDINARY FAITH

Manny Garcia, General Superintendent

In her book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, Tish Harrison Wells masterfully describes how our lives are not meant to be sectioned off into sacred and secular pieces. Instead, as those who accept our identity as God's beloved, we are invited to view all that we do as sacred. She writes, "before we begin the liturgies of our day—the cooking, sitting in traffic, emailing, accomplishing, working, resting—we begin beloved." She also rightly points out that many of us want life to reflect the nonstop, action packed, never dull rhythm of our favorite movies or books. "We want a Christian life with the dull bits cut out," she says.

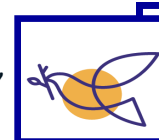
What if, as Wells contends, the small, seemingly insignificant moments of my day are what actually form me in the deepest ways? What if, as Eugene Peterson notes in his paraphrase of Romans 12:1, my "everyday, ordinary life . . . sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life," is the laboratory where we are truly shaped? If this is true, then it's not so much about my church attendance or Bible reading (although those certainly play a role in the larger picture). Instead, it is the way I live and love and respond to the moment-by-moment experiences that make me who I am. Wells says, "today is the proving ground of what I believe and of whom I worship."

If today is that proving ground, if how we live life in this every moment reveals who we are and whom we worship, then what story is your life telling? Is it a love story that begins with you being loved by God and continues with you returning that love to Him and loving others the way He

loves you? Do you take time to consider your position in God's kingdom daily, or do you lose sight of who you are and Who's you are? These kinds of things matter deeply. Any attempts to discern our identity apart from God, no matter how unintentional, has a deforming effect on us.

Wells echoes the wisdom of many heroes of the faith when she encourages readers to, "learn how grand, sweeping truths—doctrine, theology, ecclesiology, Christology—rub against the texture of an average day." Our ordinary lives matter because the ordinary life of our savior also mattered. "Because God's children are human beings--made of flesh and blood--the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death" (Hebrews 2:14).

If anything, we all need this reminder that we should do our best not to take anything for granted. As much as we can, we should avoid the "autopilot" kind of living where we go through the motions of our day unaware. Just because we can do most tasks without thinking doesn't mean we should. Instead, we should consider the blessings and miracles and grace that are found in each and every moment, from the minute our eyes open in the morning until the moment we drift off to sleep at night, our days are a series of sacred moments, where God is near, at work, and available to us if we would only take notice.



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Calendar

May 21st—Camp Cookie Day

Camp Dates

Little Fry—June 10-12

Elementary—June 23-26

Middle School—June 12-16

High School—June 17-22

June 3-5 Stoking the Fire

@ Quaker Hill Conference
Center—Richmond IN
Visit FUM Website for
More information and to register!

2022-2023 Kaleo Cohort Recruiting Underway!

The next Kaleo Cohort begins with Theology Camp on the campus of Barclay College June 23rd-29th, 2022.

Applications process ends at the end of May!

July 27-30 Yearly Meeting

@ William Penn University

College-Aged Students -
You are invited to the
FRIENDS STUDENT GATHERING at



December 28th, 2022 – January 1st, 2023



Event Report

By
Karen Mendenhall

Twenty-six women and two men from nine churches attended Spring Fling at Motor Friends. An offering of \$510 was taken to go towards materials and sewing machines for the Kenyan Pad Project. About fifteen women spent the afternoon working on this project.

Our theme for the day was Renewal of Hope. President, Karen Mendenhall opened the day with Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Karen noted that the last few years has been hard for not only Iowa USFW, but for all of the USFW groups in Friends United Meeting. This is resulted in the reformation of USFW into a North East USFW group, and a Midwest USFW group in Indiana. Iowa is not close enough to join another group so we are standing alone. But God is not done with us yet, Iowa Friends are and have always been invested in the FUM Missions. Therefore we must believe that God has a plan for us filled with hope and a future.

Our morning speaker was Dr. Tanya English is a Chiropractor of the soul. Tanya taught us that a trauma that we experience can fester and irritate our whole being if we do not find ways to defuse it. She gave us a breathing exercise that can help us defuse the anxiety of trauma. First release the air in your lungs, Counting 1,2,3,4. Then hold 1,2,3,4. Breathe out 1, 2, 3, 4. Repeat the exercise four times all together breathing in the Spirit of God's Grace and Breathing out Gratitude for His love. When we are done, peace and calm has been restored to our soul.

The second part of her presentation was on forgiveness. We are told in Matthew 22 to "Love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Tanya pointed out that often the primary person that we do not forgive when something bad happens is ourselves. Not only do we not forgive ourselves; we obsess about it and beat ourselves up. This can be a pattern in our lives that needs to be broken. She gave us a tool to break the pattern.

The last part of her presentation was about living in the Spirit of Thanksgiving where we can be co-creators with God.

In the business session, Karen remind everyone that we have several openings on the Board - Secretary, Vice President and Peace and Christian Service Secretary. She said that we need to reimagine how to do USFW to widen our circle of women involved and encouraged all to seek God's guidance about this.

Upcoming events include: Celebration of Service and the Yearly Meeting Banquet where Kelly Kellum, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting will be the speaker on July 30 at William Penn.

Love and Compassion In Action Testimonies

Christian Social Concerns Board

A member of our Church family visits an elderly neighbor each day. He lives alone and they help him with projects/any needs but they also enjoy visiting and drinking coffee together.

An elderly person had baby kittens that were abandoned by their mother. Unable to care for them himself, a member of our church family fed the kittens even throughout the night so that they could survive. They all survived....

After attending a lesson that included the Good Samaritan parable at a DEEPER bible study, they were driving home and noticed a car with their flashers on and parked off the road. They would usually just drive by but decided to offer assistance even if they couldn't help with any mechanical issues. When they stopped, they found out that assistance was on the way for the couple but the gentleman shared for 10 minutes and appeared much calmer as a result of the visit. They just listened and offered support and reassurance.

Someone spent one hour helping someone that doesn't attend any church with their finances. They were asking for some help in learning how to budget and manage their money.

Liberty USFW women providing weekly meals for a family recovering from a medical condition.

A Grinnell church family member was going to a Redemption center and met a person in need of a meal. She prepared the meal and delivered it to their home. She didn't even know her name.

LeGrand Friends hosts Pioneer Club on Wednesday nights September through March. This year we averaged over 50 children each night. We feed them supper and then have a program of Bible Stories, music, games and crafts. It takes a team of over 20 people to provide this program for the children of our community. It is our hope that seeds of the gospel will be planted in their lives to impact them and their families.

In these economic times, it is becoming extremely difficult for many Kenyans to make ends meet. The high cost of living had been occasioned by various factors, including the Russia-Ukraine war and the several waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The rising cost of living is not exclusive to Kenya, it is a global phenomenon fueled by numerous external factors which has led to a rise in the global price of petroleum. This has led to hiked transport cost and further affected the cost of basic food commodities. The past few weeks have been a hustle of waiting in long queues at gas stations. Motorists often wait in long lines for over eight hours, uncertain of accessing petrol. Because of fuel rations, fuel is limited to an average of 6-8 liters (1-2 gallons) per motorist.

FUM staff has not been an exception in this crisis. Plans to attend meetings, conferences, and joining friends in person for worship have changed as our movement is limited. We are grateful as staff that we were able to find enough fuel to travel to the Friends Church Kenya Triennial in Lugari Yearly Meeting and Young Friends Program Triennial in Bware Yearly Meeting.

High fuel costs are likely to further push up the country's cost of living. We invite the FUM community to hold Kenya and Africa in the Light as we respond to these challenges. Pray for peace and economic stability to promote equal and affordable resources for our citizens.

— Kate Gunza, FUM Africa Ministries Office



Melva Vint, age 93, of LeGrand, passed away on April 18th. Born on December 5th, 1928, at the family home near Gladbrook, she was the daughter and one of three children born to Walter and Augusta (Landt) Rohweder. On January 18th, 1948, she was united in marriage to Dean Vint in Gladbrook. They made their home at Beaman and then Garwin, farming for the next 38 years. In 1992, they retired and moved to LeGrand. Dean passed away on September 10th, 2010.

Melva was a wonderful homemaker, wife and mom who treasured her family. Her faith was strong and unwavering. She was also a longtime member of the Garwin United Methodist Church and more recently of the LeGrand Friends Church.

Visit
growIAYM.org

Schedules

Speaker
Information

Workshops

Registration



Kelly Kellum will be our selected speaker at our Saturday (7/30) Mission's Banquet!

We will gather at noon at the Musco Technology Center on the campus of William Penn University.



Oscar Mmbali will also be in attendance at our Yearly Meeting. Oscar is part of the Ministry in Belize. He serves in Pastoral Ministry at Belize City Friends.

IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

INSPIRED BY THE PAST TO IMPACT THE FUTURE

PHILIPPIANS 1:3—6

160TH ANNUAL SESSION — JULY 27-30, 2022

* I THANK MY GOD EVERY TIME I REMEMBER YOU. IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU, I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY BECAUSE OF YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW. BEING CONFIDENT OF THIS, THAT HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL CARRY IT ON TO COMPLETION UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST JESUS. *



GOD IS FAITHFUL — YOUR WORK IS NOT IN VAIN — GOD IS FAITHFUL — YOUR WORK IS NOT IN VAIN

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Our Guest Speakers

Katy Moran and Brockie Follette



Katy and Brockie are familiar faces in our Yearly Meeting!

They serve in ministry through Kaleo Academy. It is an evangelical leadership training experience for high school students through theology, mentoring, service and calling.



Manny Garcia,
General Superintendent,
will lead our Friday evening
Celebration Service.

We will celebrate with International Friends Church as they have become a Monthly Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Mac & Berny McDonald, our directors at Mesquakie Friends, will be retiring from ministry at Mesquakie Friends Center.

Let's gather with them and share in this moment of Ministry transition!

A reception will follow the service.



Jared serves as the Worship Arts Coordinator at Northridge Friends Church in Wichita, KS where his wife Catherine is also a member of the worship team. Jared and Catherine Harvey are life-long members of Northridge Friends in every sense of the word, as both having been attending there since they were just days old. We are excited to welcome them to Iowa and look forward to their ministry to us.