

>>> MARCH/APRIL 2024 <<<

THE IOWA FRIEND

COMING UP THIS MONTH!

SPRING BODY OF REPRESENTATIVES AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

>>> MARCH 22-23

We will gather for fellowship and Business at the end of March in Mason City, Iowa. Austin and Jenna Schmidt will be sharing with us on the topic of stewarding intergenerational relationships within the church and learning healthy and God-honoring methods of making space for the next generation in mission, vision, and leadership roles. Our business meetings will commence Saturday morning with rollcall at 9am. If you did not get registered, you can still register for *Saturday morning only* through March 15th.

MARCH 8-17 <<<

A group of nine young adult students and leaders are traveling to Mexico to participate in Spring Connection with EFC-MAYM. Our group will be in Palau, Mexico partnering with the church, building relationships, serving the church in rebuilding the ceiling, conducting a VBS for the children of Palau, and doing sports ministry. The group leaves at 12:30 on Friday, March 8th. Anyone who would like to pray over the group before they depart is invited to gather at the Yearly Meeting Office to send them off in prayer. Please continue to prayer for the groups travel and ministry during their trip.

SPRING CONNECTION IN PALAU, MEXICO

APRIL 13TH AND APRIL 27TH <<<

We will gather at 9am on the 13th for a work day to put steel on Cabin E/F. On April 27th, we will gather for a general work day at 9m

CQH WORK DAYS

USFW SPRING FLING

>>> APRIL 20TH

United States Friends Women's Annual Spring Fling will be on held April 20 at Camp Quaker Heights. Registration will begin at 9:30.

MAY 4TH <<<

Grab your cookie scoop and join us at 9am at CQH for our annual Cookie Day!

CQH COOKIE DAY

MAY 5TH <<<

On May 5th, could you or somebody in your church share the importance of church planting? Would you be willing to take an offering that will go towards Iowa Yearly Meeting Church Plants? Statistics, stories, and more information are available upon request. Keep your eye out for more information!

Iowa Yearly Meeting Church Planting Sunday

JOIN US!



May 5th – A day of
celebrating and giving
across our churches for
*Iowa Yearly Meeting
Church Plants*



>>> KALEO ACADEMY

Kaleo Academy at Barclay College is an evangelical Friends training experience for high school students through theology, mentoring, service, and calling that takes place on the college campus this summer. We have begun recruiting for the 2024 cohort which takes place June 16-22, 2024. Students will come with an adult mentor from their church and experience a life-changing week as well as a 10 month follow up online with their cohort. Please visit <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/> to learn more and begin your application process now!

Kaleo Academy
National Friends Youth Training

Now
Accepting
Applications!
Next cohort
June 16-22, 2024

APPLY NOW!

Go to
www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/
to begin your application now



DO NOT BE WEARY IN WELL DOING

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS



Recently the Iowa Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee checked in with local meetings to see what actions of compassion and service they were participating in. The responses were highly encouraging to the Committee and worthy of sharing with you as we celebrate the work being done and hope to stimulate others to action.

Care of the local congregants and individuals in a meeting's area of influence were of paramount concern. Participation in food pantries, benevolent funds, or offering cookies to police officers are among the many ministries that meetings can be a part of right outside their doors. Going a little further some meetings are helping with ministries as House of Compassion, the Jesus Mission, and Celebrate Recovery.

Having an influence in the lives of children and young adults is seen Pioneer Clubs, making baby blankets, and Cradle of Hope. These ministries are providing positive activities for young people and learning opportunities: education in the Bible, peacemaking curriculum, teaching stewardship.

Some meetings are providing services to fit special needs in their area. Todd's Place in Mason City is helping people with overcoming addictions. Renewed Hope in Grinnell is caring for the physical needs of furniture and sharing the good news along with household items. Honey Creek - New Providence serves a Community Breakfast and through Providential Homes affords people houses that would have previously been out of reach for ownership. Fairfield addresses many needs and in addition looks to help college students with transportation, special dinners and a Christian Club on Campus.

We can be overwhelmed with the many needs around us at present and those ministries yet to come. Several meetings felt they weren't doing much. The following parable applies as a couple were walking along the beach after a hurricane and saw a young woman in the distance apparently throwing things into the ocean. The couple had noticed starfish stranded on the beach and as they approached the young woman she was reaching down and tossing one back into the ocean. They both smiled and the man said, "That's a nice thought, but have you seen how many starfish there are? There are thousands up and down this beach. Do you really think you can make a difference?" As the woman tossed another starfish into the sea she said, "It makes a difference to that one."

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee desires to highlight all meetings in the future with videos showcasing each meeting's efforts to bring God's Kingdom on earth. Be encouraged that you can make a difference. Do not grow weary.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

Our brothers and sisters at Denver Friends Church are having a few people over for a meal, overnight lodging, and a breakfast-to-go. Every night. Since January. A few = 29.

Denver has become host to nearly 5,000 migrants in the last couple months, many of them fleeing from danger and economic collapse in Venezuela. As Denver Friends recognized that people in need of life's basic necessities were at their doorstep, their prayers and discussions gradually developed into a plan of action. With city officials' guidance they transitioned their church gymnasium into a place of shelter, sustenance, and sanctuary, where the love of God was dished out as generously as the food on their plates.

There are many ways we can think about and respond to this information. Here are three to consider:

- Pray for this life-altering experience, listen for God's voice and direction, and "walk ye in it". Pray specifically that the volunteers serving in this ministry will offer hospitality with discernment, grace, and patience.
- Check out Denver Friends' website and Facebook page for more information and ways to help.
- Open your eyes and ears to your community's needs, looking for opportunities to live out Matthew 25.

Then stand back and watch God do His Thing!

EASTER MISSIONS OFFERING

AFRICAN GIRL CHILD EDUCATION

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The IAYM Mission Board has chosen the African Girl Child Education project to receive the Easter offerings taken in local churches this year. In a region of the world where girls traditionally are judged for what they can contribute in their homes, Kenya has made huge strides at equalizing the enrollment of girls in secondary education. In most parts of the country, girls excel in all areas of testing, and go on to higher education. But this is still a challenge in Turkana & Samburu. They experience poverty, semi-nomadic living, and early marriage. All of these make it challenging for girls to complete a secondary education. Statistics show that educating girls in poor areas improves their lives dramatically and elevates the health and economic well-being of their whole community. FUM sponsors 40 girls each year through Turkana & Samburu Friends Mission. Approximately \$500 US covers complete tuition, room, board, and fees for one girl for a year. The girls are usually associated with a local Friends meeting, must keep up their grades. Many are daughters of Friends pastors and want to give back to their communities. They are shy, in the head teacher's office, speaking softly

and hesitantly in English—which is their third language. But they share their stories. “I like to be at school,” says one girl, age 13, “because at home, when I am not at school, I am cooking and caring for animals, and I do not have time to read.” “And early marriage is there,” adds her classmate, who is 12 and knows that were she not in school, she would likely be a wife and mother by now. She straightens her spine. “I want education. It is my future.” Their mothers did not go to school. Ten years ago, in Loltulelei, Samburu, only two girls graduated from the eighth grade. Last year, 30 girls did. These girls intend to go to high school—and beyond. When asked, they say, “I will be a doctor... I will be a teacher... I will be a nurse.” Given financial help, they will absolutely do these things. To invest in these girls is to lift up generations. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

MISSIONS SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Missions Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1,000 for the 2024-25 school year.

People within Iowa Yearly Meeting who want to pursue an education at a Christian college or an accredited college or seminary to prepare for full-time mission work with a Biblically based mission organization may apply. Please contact the Yearly Meeting office for more information. Deadline for applications is March 31.



Shine On

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS 2024

High School: June 7-12 | Middle School: June 12-16

Elementary: June 18-21 | Little Fry: June 21-23