

Western Work

December, 2022

THE HOPEFUL PROMISE OF CHRIST

Dear Friends, I am writing this Christmas greeting to you on November 8-Election Day. I don't know how things are going to turn out as far as the results of elections. I can guarantee that tensions will be amped up, that there will likely be a deepening of division in our country. In the aftermath words will be spoken with cruelty, hatred and with hyperbole.

How do those of us who call ourselves Children of God, Children of Light, and Followers of Christ adequately celebrate the birth of Christ during the turmoil we find our country and world in? How do we hope to mend our own fractured families, schools, and neighborhoods? How do we do more than give lip-service to our Quaker testimony of Peace and Justice? Can we see it as more than a now impotent dream of our past? It is tempting to close our ears, hide our eyes, and keep to ourselves. Sometimes I'd just as soon avoid those situations where it does not seem safe.

And yet, one of the great themes of Christmas time is the theme of hope. Throughout the Messianic prophecy in the OT there is this emerging theme of Light, Hope, Freedom, and New Life. While Jesus appears on the scene in lowly fashion, make no mistake, Jesus comes to shake things up, to usher in The Kingdom of God in new powerful ways. Upside down ways, turning our other cheek ways, loving our enemies ways, and blessing those who oppose us ways.

The foretelling of the Hope in darkness, the Deliverance from oppression, and the Joy of the Messiah is outlined for us in the familiar passage found in Isaiah chapter 9. I find that this is a great passage to offer the world. Our fractured world needs the hope and transformation that we can offer in Jesus. May these hopeful words from the contemporary Message version wash over you. I know they encourage me. May it be so for each of us.

Isaiah chapter 9:1-7

A CHILD HAS BEEN BORN—FOR US!

1 But there'll be no darkness for those who were in trouble. Earlier he did bring the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali into disrepute, but the time is coming when he'll make that whole area glorious—the road along the Sea, the country past the Jordan, international Galilee.

*2-7 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.*

*For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—
light! sunbursts of light!*

*You repopulated the nation,
you expanded its joy.*

*Oh, they're so glad in your presence!
Festival joy!*

The joy of a great celebration,

The Hopeful Promise of Christ continued on page 2.



The Hopeful Promise of Christ continued from page 1.

*sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.
The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—
all their whips and clubs and curses—
Is gone, done away with, a deliverance
as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over
Midian.
The boots of all those invading troops,
along with their shirts soaked with innocent blood,
Will be piled in a heap and burned,
a fire that will burn for days!
For a child has been born—for us!
the gift of a son—for us!
He'll take over
the running of the world.
His names will be: Amazing Counselor,
Strong God,
Eternal Father,
Prince of Wholeness.
His ruling authority will grow,
and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.
He'll rule from the historic David throne
over that promised kingdom.
He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing
and keep it going
With fair dealing and right living,
beginning now and lasting always.
The zeal of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies
will do all this.*



Shawn McConaughy
Superintendent



**Superintendent
Christmas Open House**

You're Invited!

WYM General Superintendent Shawn and Katrina McConaughy invite all Friends from Western Yearly Meeting to a Christmas open house at their home. Come enjoy some fellowship, holiday goodies and something warm to drink anytime

**Between 1pm and 5pm on
Saturday December 10.**

Our address is
6398 E. Hendricks County Road,
Mooresville, IN 46158.

RSVP is not required
but appreciated at
katrinamccon@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS AMONG FRIENDS

Kokomo First Friends

Pastor Michael Carson
1801 W. Zartman Rd. Kokomo, IN 46902
first.friends@sbcglobal.net ~ kokomofriends.org

FOUR THURSDAYS IN ADVENT STUDY 2022

December 1st	St. Matthew
December 8th	St. Mark
December 15th	St. Luke
December 22nd	St. John



Russiaville Friends

Pastor Jamie Lyon
270 E. Main Street, Russiaville, IN 46979

December 18th	Blue Christmas	5:00pm
December 25th	Christmas Worship	9:30am
December 27th	Free Community Meal	5-7pm
December 31st	Early New Year's Celebration	5:00pm



CHRISTMAS AMONG FRIENDS

San creek-Azalia Friends

Pastor Peggy Caldwell
13275 S 350 E
Elizabethtown, IN 47232

November 23rd	Annual Soup Supper	6:00pm
December 4th	Christmas Program	6:00pm
December 24th	Christmas Candlelight Service	10:00pm
December 25th	Christmas Worship Service	10:00am



Dedication of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry took place on November 6, at Sandcreek-Azalia Friends. It is a ministry of taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children all over the world.

Indianapolis First Friends Meeting

Pastor Bob Henry
3030 Kessler Blvd. E. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220
office@indyfriends.org ~ indyfriends.org

Associate Pastor Beth Henricks
CE & Family Ministries Director

December 4th	Vespers Concert	5:30pm
December 11th	Christmas Tea & Caroling	Following Service
December 18th	Children's Pageant	10:15am
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service	5:00pm
December 25th	No Service	

We will be kicking off the holiday season with our annual Vespers concert on December 4th at 5:30. This year's performance will be "*The Journey to Christmas*." Please RSVP with the Meeting office at office@indyfriends.org as a meal will be served. On December 11, please join us after our 10:15 Meeting for Worship service, for our Christmas Tea where we share in tea and a wide assortment of holiday cookies during Fellowship Hour. Later that day, we will gather at the Meetinghouse and leave at 3:30 for Christmas Caroling. December 18th's 10:15 Meeting for Worship will feature our annual Children's Pageant, where our kids in costume tell the Christmas story. We will then hold our Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 5:30pm, this year titled "*Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All People*." There will be no worship services on Sunday, December 25th. We hope you will plan to join us for any or all of our holiday events this year!

CHRISTMAS AMONG FRIENDS

Plainfield Friends

Pastor Cathy Harris
105 S. East Street, Plainfield, IN 46158
pmminyym@yahoo.com ~ plainfieldfriends.org

Sunday, Dec. 11, at 10:30am

Children's Christmas Program - the children will tell the Christmas story and play some Christmas songs on handbells.

Sunday, Dec. 11, at 11:30am

We will have a **Christmas pitch-in dinner** immediately following worship - all are invited.

Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30pm

Christmas Concert featuring Marilyn Tucker and Cathy Harris - this will take place in the WYM Meeting Room. It's a wonderful time to hear the pipe organ as well as some of your favorite Christmas songs.

Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:30am

The **Plainfield Friends Choir** will bring the message through Christmas music during worship.

Saturday, Dec. 24, at 8:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - featuring special music, an opportunity to sing your favorite Christmas Carols, and everyone's favorite - to light a candle.

Sunday, Dec. 25, at 10:30am

Special Christmas morning worship service

Carmel Friends

Pastor Ben Snyder
651 W. Main Street, Carmel, IN 46032
carmelfriends@aol.com ~ carmelfriends.org

Mitten Tree - We are collecting gloves and hats for children in connection with our food pantry ministry. Visitors to our meetinghouse can choose an ornament from our Mitten Tree with a child's age and gender so hats and mittens can be purchased for that child. Anyone wanting to purchase items for the Mitten Tree need to bring in their purchase and their ornament by December 4 for distribution to the families.

Christmas Meal & Fellowship - On Sunday, December 11, Carmel Friends will have a Christmas Meal immediately following the morning service. Our special musical guests are the Marion County Extension Chords and Santa Claus will make an appearance.

Christmas Eve Service - We will have a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Saturday, December 24, at 7:30pm. Friends, family, and members of the community are welcome to attend.

Christmas Morning Service - Carmel Friends will have regular worship services on Sunday, December 25, at 10:30am.

Check the weekly
UPDATES to get
the most current
information on
CHRISTMAS
AMONG FRIENDS.

WEST NEWTON FRIENDS WITH A NEW OUTLOOK

Having been established in 1827 by Fairfield Friends, West Newton Friends Meeting looks forward to celebrating its 2ND century anniversary in just a few years. As was typical of many of our churches, West Newton Friends Church was at the peak of its attendance and activities in the 1960's around the time they built a new meeting house on Mooresville Road, in the southwest corner of Marion County. It was January of 1965 when the building was dedicated for the Lord's work. Friends there have taken that seriously and maintained a high energy for missions and community service outside the meeting walls and worship and learning within them. Again, like many of our meetings the number of attenders and members at West Newton Friends has diminished in the last three decades, though the participation of those remaining has remained strong.



About fifteen years ago, West Newton Friends began the serious quest to find ways to change the direction we were obviously heading. We considered merging with one of our neighboring meetings. Consultants were hired to help us define more effective ways of welcoming new people. We expanded the use of our building for 4-H clubs, scout groups and Lions Club. We knocked on doors and distributed brochures in the neighborhood. We implemented plans to invite visitors and hosted Quaker Quest so our community could see what God is doing with us. We are glad for the new members we have gained, but it wasn't enough keep up with the number of those dear and faithful members who have passed from this life to the next.



We adjusted the way we did worship and structure to suit the smaller group we had. When the pastor moved away, we decided to manage on our own as volunteers took turns to share a worship message each Sunday. We rearranged our furniture to bring us closer together. Four years ago, we began sharing our space with Camby Tabernacle, a Pentecostal congregation who held their worship after ours. When Covid came along, we changed the way we did worship by using Zoom. We were delighted to have attenders from Florida, Iowa, Canada, Kentucky and other far away places, some who were even members but lived so far away they couldn't be regular in attendance. But then there were so few there in person on Sundays, the work and expense of maintaining the property became burdensome for those nearby and was draining resources from our outreach ministries. So, difficult as it was for many of us, we approved putting our building up for sale.



Though the papers are not yet signed, we have cleaned out the files, closets, and bookshelves to leave only what the next congregations can use.

Sunday, October 23 was our last worship at 6800 S. Mooresville Road. We wanted it to be a celebration of the years of worship and service that nurtured us for nearly 68 years rather than be a funeral for a dying



[West Newton continued on page 7.](#)

meeting. We wanted to make a strong statement that we will be continuing as a meeting to be about our Father's business. The very



next Sunday, October 30, meeting for worship was held at the Goodwin Center about three miles away. We already had a kinship with the Center as we have participated in their ministries to the needy for the past several years and one of our members serves on the Board there. We will be approving our budget for 2023 soon and it will look much like what we have funded in the past minus the expenses of maintaining the property. And, we just received a request for membership from one of our Zoom attendees. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and to see where God leads us in serving Him in new ways, in a new neighborhood. Our new address is: West Newton Friends Meeting, P.O. Box 406, Camby IN 46113. You can still reach clerk Brent Bill at brentbil@sbcglobal.net



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2023

Western Yearly Meeting

ANNUAL SESSIONS

2023 Dates

July 27-30, 2023

Quaker Haven Camp Dates for 2023

Winter Sneak	February 3-5
Level Up	March 24-26
Young Adult	June 2-4
Jr High	June 4-9
Sr High I	June 11-16
Beginners Camp	June 16-18
Adventure	June 18-23
Sr High II	June 25-30
Little Friends	July 9-12
Pioneer	July 23-27
Fall Impact	November 3-5

FALL IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Gathering at Quaker Haven is a favorite of many. Indiana YM and Western YM join for Fall Impact each November. This weekend camp invites Junior High and High School youth to attend a relaxed time of fellowship, worship, service and of course plenty of good food. The chapel speaker was Pastor Michael Carson from Kokomo First Friends. Pastor Ben Snyder (Carmel), DJ Carter (Russiaville) and Greg States (Sand Creek-Azalia) all served on staff. Shawn and Katrina McConaughy helped give direction to the weekend. About 60 youth (15 from WYM) and 25 staff had a great weekend together in a beautiful place. Read some responses from attenders below.

A sampling of the positive comments about Fall Impact.

- "It was fun to connect with him (speaker) by hearing real life examples".
- "I liked the Preacher"
- "Our service project time was good"
- "The worship was awesome. The musicians were nice and made a musical connection to God."
- "The service project was great. We got a lot done. It was great to give back to the Camp."
- "Thanks so much for an awesome last Fall Impact."
- "I enjoyed being able to gather as a big group during the fire and popcorn time."
- "I think that the song 'Love Lifted Me' is going to stick in my head as a reminder of God's love and my time here"

What can we pray for you about?

- "Mental Health"
- "I would like prayer for everyone that is struggling with their identity and not feeling worthy."
- "My grandma has some masses in her lungs"
- "Calmness for stress and anxiety"
- "Praying for my family and loss."
- "Pray for my healing and that I rely on God."
- "My depression and anxiety"
- "Pray for those who feel alone and who have pasts that keep creeping up."
- "After high-school life."
- "I haven't been doing well mentally."



MEETINGS LOOKING FOR PASTORS

HADLEY FRIENDS MEETING

c/o Tim Whicker
2100 S CR 450 W, Coatesville, IN 46121
(location only; NOT a mailing address)

Tim Whicker's contact info: 317-281-5001
twhicker@electricplus.com

MOORESVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

50 N Monroe St, Mooresville, IN 46158
pastorsearch.mfc@gmail.com



PULPIT SUPPLY

Need someone to fill the pulpit on Sunday?

Wanda Coffin Baker	317-790-7976
Stan Banker	317-823-2593 bankesall@sbcglobal.net
Susann Estle	317-260-9006 susannestle@gmail.com
Worth Hartman	317-417-0806 worthgrover@sbcglobal.net
Dan Lee	317-850-4298 dleehoss@yahoo.com
Marlene Pedigo	317-292-2384 marlenepedigo@yahoo.com
Jeff Wells	812-620-1573 jwellsrph@gmail.com
Sue Whitesel	317-840-5021 stwhitesel@sbcglobal.net
Chris Wynn	317-667-4375 chris_wynn@juno.com

Shawn McConaughey **Superintendent**
971-281-0979
shawn@westernyearlymeeting.org

Friends United Meeting 757-962-7573
Colin Saxton
Kelly Kellum

Anderson University 765-641-4502
Alan Overstreet
Professor of Christian Education and Ministry

Tom Roberts 317-730-2268
Excellent musician and could provide a service of music, but no sermon.



Western Work

Western Yearly Meeting
203 S. East Street
P.O. Box 70
Plainfield, IN 46168

Phone: 317-839-2789
Toll Free: 1-800-909-3452

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

9 a.m. –12 noon ~ 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Friday—Office is closed

Friends are welcome to contact staff via email or phone with the understanding that we will get back to you as soon as we can.



STAFF

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Shawn McConaughey
shawn@westernyearlymeeting.org
971-281-0979

YEARLY MEETING CLERK

Sarahbeth Marcinko
marcinko@marcinko.net
765-366-4858

OFFICE MANAGER

Amy Eitel
office@westernyearlymeeting.com
317-839-2789
800-909-3452

*Please remember to include your
year-end donation to the:*
WYM RETIRED MINISTERS FUND

Checks can be made to:

**WESTERN YEARLY MEETING
PO BOX 70
PLAINFIELD, IN 46168**

(Please make sure to send this as a separate check from Benevolence or Assessments, since contributions need to be deposited to a separate checking account.)