

Amboy Friends recently had a Santa's Secret Workshop where kids could shop for free gifts for parents and siblings. There were nearly 80 children in attendance. Currently, the church has a Membership Class with seven people enrolled, and also, the church has started Family Advent Nights with a meal, Bible Study, and activities, and with over 20 families participating. On December 17 at 7 pm, the church will host a Christmas Choir Cantata. All are invited.

Hinkle Creek Friends will hold their Christmas program and Candlelight Service on Sunday evening, December 17 at 6:30.

Knightstown Friends will host "Better Day," a vocal and guitar duo, on Sunday morning, December 17, and they will have their candlelight service that evening at 7 pm. Their Christmas Dinner was held December 2.

Maple Run Friends has reservation information for a "Best of Israel" tour, March 22-31, 2019, if you are looking ahead for an inspirational trip. Contact pastor John Key at john.k.key@gmail.com or 765-661-4034. See www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/maplerunisrael.htm.

Shirley Friends will hold their Candlelight Service, Sunday, December 17 at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Sycamore Friends will have a chili supper and caroling on December 21, and will have their candlelight service, December 24.

South Marion Friends prepared several shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. They also decorated the meeting-house for Christmas following a pitch-in meal of Thanksgiving leftovers. They continue to meet for prayer the first and third Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

Mid-Winter Retreat for pastors and spouses will be held January 19-21 at Clifty Inn, Madison, Indiana. Please encourage and support your pastor(s) to take advantage of this great winter get-away. **Reservations are due December 18.**

Thank you so much to those of you who sustain Indiana Yearly Meeting with your gifts—gifts of time, talent, and resources. These make it possible for IYM to move the Kingdom of God forward. We are especially grateful that you remember IYM with your

contributions. Merry Christmas to you and yours. -*The Advancement Committee*

2017 Assessments: We will close our 2017 financial books on January 16. Churches are asked to have all 2017 assessment payments and/or missions goals payments to the yearly meeting by that date.

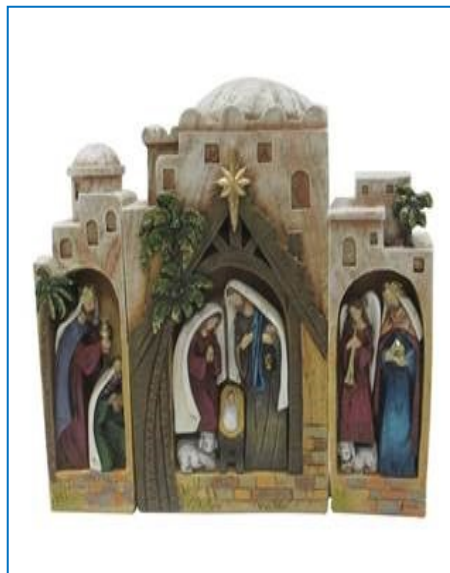


CE News: Farmland Youth Invasion

On January 14, we will bring three hours of camp programming to Farmland Friends from 5-8 pm for another Youth Invasion. There will be a worship band, camp-type games, a camp-type message, and plenty of pizza! Please contact Pat Byers with a tentative number of people your church will be bringing so we get enough pizza.

Friends United Meeting (FUM) is seeking qualified applicants for a part-time (2/3rd time) North American Ministries Coordinator within their Richmond-based staff. A complete job description is available at www.friendsunitedmeeting.org or by contacting the FUM office at info@fum.org or (765) 962-7573.

Applications will be received through January 15, 2018.



Attn: To United Society of Friends Women International concerning 2017 Funds—please send checks to Tish Dain by December 15.

An opportunity for your congregation: The Center for Congregations announces an education and matching grant opportunity for Indiana Congregations. The Community Ministry Grant program is an education and matching grant program designed to help Indiana congregations engage in mutual ministry with their chosen communities. This program provides selected congregations with a nine-month educational program with an opportunity to apply for up to \$30,000 of matching grant money to help launch a new ministry in your community. For more information contact Katie at klindberg@centerforcongregations.org or call 317-237-7799.

Becky Binkerd, former secretary at Wash Friends, has recently been diagnosed with sudden onset dementia. Your prayers for her release in God's time and for the family would be greatly appreciated.

Our Deepest Sympathy

Ruby Katherine Barker passed away, November 30, at the age of 95. She was the wife of former IYM pastor, Edwin Barker, and they ministered at Westland Friends, Anderson Friends, and Hemlock Friends, and Edwin was assistant pastor of Spiceland Friends. Ruby Katherine graduated from Carmel High School and attended Asbury College.

For unto you is born
this day in the
city of David a
Saviour
which is **Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2:11

Merry Christmas from the
IYM Staff
Doug, Pat,
Rowena, and Betty

Good Morning!

Naughty or nice? From childhood many of us have been taught that we are being watched and that nice children will receive Christmas gifts. What a burden that is for a four-year-old!

This week I heard comedian Ken Davis play a recording of a young boy who suggested that little boys aren't bad. They just have accidents - all the time. As a big boy, I don't feel especially worthy of any gift, particularly the gift of Jesus that we celebrate annually each December.

I've been thinking this month of favorite gifts I've received in my lifetime, and one has

been a pleasant surprise. Today I'd like to publicly thank God for this gift I enjoy—Quaker heritage. Don't get me wrong, I do not believe that Friends have everything right while all others have it wrong. I do believe, however, that we stand on the shoulders of some spiritual giants who have pointed us to a manner of faith and living that reminds me a lot of what we read about in the New Testament.

Not everyone reading this will agree with me on the following but if we view Quaker distinctives as restrictions, we can easily become very frustrated.

Instead, I hope we can regard Friends testimonies as a kind of spiritual GPS pointing us down a path that leads to a deeply moving, first-hand experience of God, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Have you experienced this? I'm not asking if you believe what Quakers believe, but I am asking if you have experienced a living relationship with God that has transformed your pattern of thinking as well as living? That's where our heritage points us. **What a gift!**
-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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December 13, 2017

IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/18 Investment Board, Muncie Red Lobster, 11 am
12/18 Program Committee, Conference Call, 6:30 pm
01/06 Executive Committee Retreat, IYM office, 9:30 am
01/14 Youth Invasion, Farmland Friends
01/19 Mid-Winter Retreat, Clifty Inn/Madison
01/22 Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm
01/30 Trustees, IYM office, 6:30 pm
02/2-4 Winter Sneak, Quaker Haven

IYM Office will be closed December 22 through January 1.

