

2017 Yearly Meeting Preview:

It's been said that as Friends we could do a better job of celebrating where God has given us victory. Over the last several years, He has seen us through hardship. While other denominations are trying to sort out those hardships on their own, we need to lead the way in celebrating the common unity that God has given us. This year we have one of our own, Pastor Mark Wright, returning to talk to us about this very thing. Drew & Nikki Drage of Lynn Friends will lead Praise & Worship. Will you take time to consider being a part of a Yearly Meeting-wide celebration, as we join together at Yearly Meeting Sessions for "Show us Your Glory!" - July 27-29 at Quaker Haven.

Bethel Friends will hold a Maundy Thursday service, April 13 at 7 pm.

Center Friends recently enjoyed the music of the "Young Spirits," a group of youth that attend churches in the Milton School district.

Charlottesville Friends will hold a revival with Jack Holliday speaking, April 30, 10:30 & 6:00, and May 1-3 at 7 pm. Fred Powers will lead the singing and Rowena Holliday will play the piano. Please, come worship with them during that week.

Dewart Lake Community Friends is hosting their third annual Easter Egg-stravaganza, April 15, 10-12 am. The egg hunt will be held at beautiful Quaker Haven with over 1000 eggs plus other activities for children. Come and hunt, create, play, and hang out on Easter Saturday and enjoy free family fun! Also, Dewart Lake Community Friends continues to partner with other local congregations as part of the One Community One Hope alliance, praying together for their community. Last week three denominations prayed together reflecting upon their unity in Christ.

Farmland Friends will present an Easter play on Good Friday and on Easter morning. "Crown of Thorns—More of the Story" will begin at 7 pm on April 14 and at 10 am on April 16. Admission is free. A recent night of Southern Gospel and Bluegrass Music featuring *My Brother's Keeper*, *Mountain Laurel*, and *Sounds of Home* was attended by a large crowd at Farmland Friends.

Hinkle Creek Friends will hold a Good Friday service, April 14, 7:00 pm. Please join them as a short drama will be given to

the music, "Arise My Love" by New Song along with other praise and worship music.

Iglesia Amigos is planning an Easter Outreach event for the Hispanic community on the east side of Indianapolis on April 15 with an Easter Egg Hunt and other activities for kids. If any groups or individuals would like to come help with this event or contribute financially, contact Katy Moran at: 317-450-4712 or pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com.

Knightsdown Friends will have a "Prayer Walk" and a Good Friday service on April 14. The prayer walk will begin at 6 pm and the service will follow at 7:30 pm.

Long Lake Friends will have a special Palm Sunday Celebration, April 9, 10 am, and a Good Friday Service on April 14 at 7 pm. Also, they will have family movie night on April 7, at 7 pm.

Shirley Friends will join with six other community churches for a Good Friday service, April 14, 6 pm at the Shirley Church of the Nazarene. Shirley Friends pastor, Jim Jackson, will bring the message.

Westfield Friends, with other local churches, will provide an Easter Egg Drop by helicopter on April 8 for children up to ten years of age. On April 22 at 9 am, they will host Becca Clouse, pastor at Rural Friends, and she will share about the spiritual discipline of journaling.

Shaping the Future of IYM 2.0 sessions have already been held at Walnut Ridge and Sycamore, featuring good attendance, lively discussion, and lots of information about IYM's relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM). There's still a chance for you to participate in one of these groups on Sunday, April 2. Sessions will be held at Marion First Friends and Farmland Friends, both beginning at 3 pm.

From IYM Treasurer, Max Smith: IYM Sunday has passed and we are thrilled to report that thus far a total of \$11,568 has been received from seventeen meetings who sent in "IYM Sunday" donations or special offerings. We are very thankful for these generous contributions received from Amboy, Bear Creek, Hemlock, Jonesboro, Long Lake, Maple Run, Portland, Rural, Shirley,

Spencerville, Vermillion, Wabash, Walnut Ridge, West River, Westfield, and White River. We look forward to hearing from other meetings soon. This brings our total donations and pledges to over \$53,000, 52+% of the 2018 goal. Thank you again for your continued support of the many IYM programs and activities.

Louisville, Kentucky, may be the location of IYM's next church. A group of Congolese Friends live and worship in Louisville and are eager to be connected to other Friends. Please pray for these Friends and leaders of IYM as we seek to continue communication.

Oscar Mmbali, FUM's new church planter to Belize, will be in the US from mid-April through the Triennial, and FUM would like to invite IYM churches to have him bring a Sunday message, and get excited about church planting ministry. Hopefully Friends would be able to offer home hospitality and transport between the events during that week. Contact Eden Grace at edeng@fum.org for more information.

Motorcycles and Ministry: (*This article, featuring IYM's recent ministry in Turkana, is the lead story in FUM's newest issue of "Connections"*) In July 2016, Indiana Yearly Meeting sent a group to Turkana, Kenya, to deliver a training program for evangelists and church planters. Developed by Global Disciples, an organization which creates locally sustainable fellowships among least-reached people, the training curriculum helps church planters develop small businesses to ensure their livelihoods with the hope that this will further their success in ministry. Following the training, the participants formed a committee to accept business proposals for startup microloan funding from IYM. So far, four individuals who participated in the Global Disciples training have been assisted to purchase motorcycles to generate ministry income. As this initial group generates income and repays their loans, more evangelists will be helped to launch their businesses. There is enormous potential for church planting in Turkana, and it is the prayer of Indiana Yearly Meeting and Turkana Friends Mission that this collaboration will empower the Gospel to move ever more broadly throughout this remote corner of Kenya.

Good Morning!

Have you read Indiana Yearly Meeting's statements on transgendered rights, immigration policy, or health care? If you haven't, you're not alone; we haven't issued formal statements on these or a plethora of other issues. This doesn't mean that we don't care. It can be tricky to speak out on social issues that have been politicized without creating the appearance that Christians are politically right wing or left wing, and are a major part of the problem in the cultural and political divide in our country. We care about issues, but we care most about the Kingdom of God!

Today is just one of many times that I've wanted to speak up in a redemptive way to address social issues that we all care about. Every time I try to craft just the right language to convey what's in my heart, I sadly realize that whatever I say will be inadequate. My dream is for 21st century followers of Christ to be known for what we are for, not what we are against. How is your church doing with this? Please don't misunderstand, I'm not asking anyone to compromise deeply held convictions. What I am asking is for us to careful-

ly consider what signals we are sending out.

Jesus was backed into a corner once with pressure to endorse a policy that condemned adultery. Jesus didn't endorse adultery, but responded in a graceful manner that didn't add to the burdensome weight already being carried by the woman standing before Him. There is a wrong way to be right, and blessed is the church that is known for its Christ-like response, not its policies. *-Doug Shoemaker*

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March 29, 2017

IYM Upcoming Calendar

4/02 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Farmland Friends, 3 pm*
4/02 *Shaping the Future 2.0, Marion First Friends, 3 pm*
4/20 *Bicentennial Committee, IYM office, 6 pm*
4/22 *Representative Council, Kennard Friends, 9:30 am*
4/23 *Iglesia Amigos Process Committee, 3 pm at Iglesia Amigos*

Representative Council will be held Saturday morning, April 22, at Kennard Friends at 9:30 am. Each church is asked to send your representative(s), but other interested Friends are also welcome to attend.

Are there Friends in your church who would like to know what's happening in IYM? Please send email addresses (or mailing addresses) to iyminfo@iym.org and we will gladly add them to our distribution list.