

**Bob Garra** is retiring from his position as Visitation Pastor at Marion First Friends. An open house in his honor will be held December 10 from 2-4 pm at the church.

**Hinkle Creek** will hold their candlelight service with a short Christmas play and music on December 17, 6:30 pm. This Sunday is "Bring a Friend" Sunday.

**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 will be held on Saturday, December 2 at 6 pm.

**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](mailto:john.k.key@gmail.com) or 765-661-4034. See [www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/maplerunisrael.htm](http://www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/maplerunisrael.htm).

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

**Walnut Ridge Friends** will hold a Country CHRISTmas Bazaar on December 1, 2:30-8:30 pm.

**There's still time** to get Christmas gifts for "Bless a Child at Iglesia Amigos" (deadline is December 2). Items can be brought to Committee Day on December 2 or contact Katy Moran at 317-450-4712 or [pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.katy.moran@gmail.com). Gifts should not cost more than \$30. Please do not wrap gifts but label them with the child's name and who it is from. Be the light of Christ to someone this Christmas!

**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 getaway. Reservations are due December 18.

**Pastors Christmas Dinner** will be held December 9 at Liberty Friends.

Enjoy a complimentary catered meal, a musical program, and fellowship with other pastors and spouses. RSVP to the yearly meeting office by December 4.

**Pastors and Recorded Ministers** are provided with an annual ministerial status card after they have completed their report to the yearly meeting M&O. These revised (and shortened) reports are now due. Report forms can be found on the yearly meeting website at [http://www.iym.org/site/cpage.asp?cpage\\_id=180039786&sec\\_id=180010756](http://www.iym.org/site/cpage.asp?cpage_id=180039786&sec_id=180010756).

**IYM Fundraising:** We thank God for generous contributions that have enabled us to minimize assessment obligations in recent years while still fully funding the valuable ministries of IYM. Contributions for the current campaign are behind last year's pace. Would you consider making a year-end gift to IYM? Contributions can be sent to 4715 N Wheeling Ave. Muncie, IN 47304 or made online at [http://www.iym.org/site/donate.asp?sec\\_id=180010756](http://www.iym.org/site/donate.asp?sec_id=180010756).

**Yearly Meeting Sessions 2018** will be held July 26-28 at Quaker Haven Camp. Our General Superintendent, Doug Shoemaker, will be this year's speaker. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

**A Bicentennial Celebration** for IYM is being planned for yearly meeting sessions in 2021. A committee is planning special programming and a publication to mark this significant milestone.



## CE News

### Winter Sneak Teen

**Retreat:** The annual Winter Sneak retreat for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students is coming back to Quaker Haven from February 2-4. Winter Sneak is similar to a week of summer

camp, except it is not summer and it is not a whole week! Should you (or some students you know) attend, you will find games, worship, food, fun, and lots of Jesus! The speaker this year is Bill Quigley from Malone University, and he is bringing a worship band of college students from Malone with him to lead in musical worship. Get signed up at [qhcyouthprogramming.com](http://qhcyouthprogramming.com). Contact Pat Byers or Brock Sizelove with any questions.

**New Testament Survey** will be the next class offered as part of IYM' collaborative effort with Barclay College, the Friends Ministry Training certificate program (FMT). Now is the time to register for this online course. New students will be required to take an Orientation to Online Learning course at no additional cost. For more information contact Paul Cochrane [paulb-cochrane@yahoo.com](mailto:paulb-cochrane@yahoo.com) or go to <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/undergraduate/online/certificate/friends-ministry-training/>.

**FUM** announces that the next "Stoking the Fire" spirituality gathering will be held on May 17-20, 2018, at the Stony Point Center in Stony Point, NY. Stoking the Fire is an annual Pentecost gathering in the presence and power of Christ, for those hungering for the spiritual fire of renewal. Stoking the Fire is sponsored by Friends United Meeting's North American Ministries program and is open to participants from all branches of Friends.

### Our Deepest Sympathy

**JR Reece**, 88, passed away November 27. JR was involved with Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond for many, many years. One of his passions was Purdue University, and he was a member of Marion First Friends. The viewing will be Friday, December 1 from 4-8 pm and the funeral will be Saturday at 10 am, both will be held at Marion First Friends.

Good Morning!

If I asked you what holiday is the scariest, my guess is that Halloween would be your top pick. I've been reading in the Gospel of Luke recently and have been surprised to notice just how frightening the Christmas story is. We read that Zechariah "was startled and gripped with fear" (1:12), Mary was "greatly troubled" (1:29), and shepherds "were terrified" (2:9).

I can't imagine how frightening it must have been for Mary and Joseph to bear the stigma of an unexplainable pregnancy. No wonder Mary initially left town and Joseph's "plan A" was to quietly distance himself from

her. Traveling to Bethlehem in her delicate condition had to be nerve-wracking. And when the contractions started to come away from home, I wouldn't doubt that both of those weary travelers were petrified.

Things were no less frightening after Jesus' birth. The holy family had to run for their lives, barely escaping into Egypt when Herod sought to exterminate any chance of a new king in his realm. And when that child of Bethlehem grew into adulthood, he minced no words when inviting people to follow him, speaking

of leaving everything behind and taking up crosses. Anyone wanting a fear-free existence need not apply to follow Jesus.

In the coming weeks I'm sure you'll see lots of nativity scenes in front yards and Christmas cards. Think of the courage represented by each person around that manger. Consider also how unsettling it may be if God would speak to you about birthing something new in your life or in your church. The Christmas story is one of courage. Do we have it?  
-Doug Shoemaker

## Communicator

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November 29, 2017

### IYM Upcoming Calendar

12/02 *Committee Day, Upland Friends, 9 am*  
12/09 *Pastors' Christmas Dinner, Liberty Friends, 5 pm*  
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*  
01/19 *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*