

February / March / Celebrations

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Isaiah Smith
- 5 Julyn Goodhue
- 11 Blanca Monzon
- 11 Jeremy Butcher
- 11 Megan Moorman
- 16 Isaiah McCullough
- 17 Andrew Rice
- 17 Mickey Underwood
- 21 Mike Nunez
- 21 Marilla Robbins
- 24 Norman Rice
- 25 Ed Harlan
- 25 Wayne Girton
- 27 Bobbie Wheeldon

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Caleb Smith
- 6 Angela Brant
- 6 Jordy Monzon
- 11 Kathy Spratt
- 15 Mark Goodhue
- 21 Beth Smith
- 23 Jacob Pribble
- 24 Serenity Bruske

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Roy/Lori Gongwer

FEB. ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Kenny/Roberta Reed
- 20 Cliff/Kathy Brandenburg
- 28 Mike/Bette Pierce



Voicu and Ana Marian - Serving in Romania



We immigrated to the US from communist Romania in the late 70s, in search of “the good life.” Upon arriving in Ohio, we came in contact with God’s people through the Evangelical Friends Church. They embodied the love of Jesus and gave us a taste of “the blessed life.” In 2000 we returned to Romania with a new passion: to proclaim the gospel to the lost. Starting out in the city of Sibiu, we ministered to orphaned and abandoned girls, and some became Christians and part of our family.

God enlarged our vision into teaching children in the public school. Through English and Woodworking classes we met some great kids, gained favor with their parents and soon started to do Christian camps and weekly youth meetings. Over the years many confessed Jesus as Savior. We continue to work in the villages of Orlat and Gura Raului.

In the Acorn Shop, Voicu teaches woodworking to junior high boys. More than woodworking, they learn how to become real men, according to the Bible. This Christmas we read about the birth of Jesus with our students, and sang, “O Come Let Us Adore Him.”

We’ve witnessed great changes, especially since Romania became part of the EU in 2007. With open borders and boundless digital access, in flooded “the good life,” and with it, plenty of evil. We have come to know these children, and to love them deeply. Their life stories have become part of ours, and it is painful to see some harden their hearts when they become adults. The Lord reminds us that our purpose here is not to change people, but to live for Him. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (Heb.13:8) He remains faithful and he deserves all the glory!

Resource: www.friendsmission.com



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up...

God searches our hearts and minds, and knows and hears every prayer, even the ones that never escape our lips. We have full confidence that He will hear and answer our prayers regardless of how we pray, out loud, or silent. It is not necessary that anyone else hear us.

We sometimes go through difficult times and we just cannot resolve a problem. When these times come to me, I go to bed at night and pray that God will take care of it. Often, when we do that, we find that, in the morning, the problem still remains with us. But Jesus has told us that we are to pray and not give up. Prayer is not a way to get God to do what we want. But is a way of recognizing His power. We know that we are to yield our lives to the Lord and trust Him to act in His way and in His time.

As a mom, I have prayed for my children each and every day. I prayed for them to have a true relationship with the Lord. Prayed for the Lord to protect them. Prayed for their health, asking God to have His hand on their lives. As they grew into adult, and had children of their own, I continued to pray for them and their families. Praying God would keep each one from harm.

Then, one of my sons had a fatal heart attack, and a little over a year ago, a daughter went in for back surgery and her kidneys failed, and then all other things in her body shut down and she died.

I wondered; didn't God know the hurt we would feel? Didn't He know how much we would miss them? So, do we stop praying, or do we give up on God? Absolutely Not! Prayer becomes even more vital now. God is still in control. His command to pray still stands. He still desires to hear from us. Prayer is not demanding God to give us what we want; it is trusting His goodness in spite of life's tragedies. We grieve. We pray, and we keep praying. His encouragement to us is clear. Always pray and don't give up!!



CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Our ladies Missionary Society is hosting our Annual Chicken Noodle Dinner on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16th. Everyone in the community is invited to attend this mission trip fundraiser. Missions minded individuals, families or churches can play an active part in missions by supporting sending youth to a local mission field in order to learn about missions and being of service to others. The goal of the Ladies Missionary Society is to gather funds at the Chicken Noodle Dinner to help support this ideal.

MENU: Delicious chicken and noodles, served over mashed potatoes, with green beans, and dinner rolls. Beverages and homemade desserts will also be served.

Free will offering will be accepted.

QUAKER MEN EARLY BIRD SESSION 10AM ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020



FEATURING:

John Muhanji

(Director of the Africa Ministries Office of Friends United Meeting, based in Kisumu, Kenya)

Robert Wafula

(Principal of Friends Theological College - Kenya)



QUAKER MEN FAMILY BANQUET

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020 AT NOON

BBQ LUNCH: COST \$17 (early purchase) or \$20 (at the door)

GUEST SPEAKER: VAN HARDEN

OF WHO RADIO (Author, Inventor, Teacher)

PIE AUCTION FOLLOWS SPEAKER



{For more information, contact Spencer Thury at 641 512-5501}

“Peace Be With You”...continued

Sometimes I imagine Jesus having conversations with His Father. One of the conversations might sound like this:

Jesus God’s Son, “Hey Dad?”

God the Father, “Yes Son”

Jesus, “Since creation you have taken care of the lilies of the field and birds of the air. The sun, the moon, the stars all work together for your glory. We placed the earth in the heavens at precisely the right location to balance the light, the heat, and the seasons. We demonstrated our love for them by showing the perfect act of love when I died on the Cross. We even gave them hope when I rose again and gave them the Gift of the Holy Spirit to teach them and remind them of our love. Yet, they still chose to chase after things that will never bring them the satisfaction of knowing you.”

God the Father, “I hear you my Son. I understand your pain. I was there when you willingly gave up your life, I shook the ground and darkened the sky. Your sacrifice was great, but that’s just it, true love must be a willingness with no expectation of receiving. Son, you have done well, look at all who call out your name.

Jesus, “Dad, how long will your patience last?”

God the Father, “until the last willing soul responds. We must be patient so that none may perish.”

Jesus “Yes, so that none may perish. My Father, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...”

God the Father, “and may they know that “man does not live on bread alone but on the Word of the Lord. Then they may know the peace We give so that their hearts will not be troubled and their fears relieved.”

John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. “



OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER DURING THE WEEK:

Sunday	9:00 am, Worship Service 10:45 am, Sunday School
Monday	9:00 am, Monday Morning Prayer with Pastor Matt and Friends
Tuesday	1:00 pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1st Tues., Feb. 4 at St. Elizabeth Eaton Church 11:30 am, Sojourners, February 11
Wednesday	6:00 pm, Worship Team Practice 7:00 pm MRF Book Club, 3rd Wed., February 19 7:00 pm, USFW EVE, 4th Wed., February 26
Thursday	6:00 am, Men's Community Breakfast and Bible Study, weekly at MRF Fellowship Hall
Saturday	8:00 – 9:30 am, Free Community Breakfast First Saturday of each month

PRAYER CHAIN:

Contact Barb Rupe
(call 515-710-3794 or email bjrupe@q.com) to begin the prayer chain with praises and/or concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / ARTICLES:

Contact Jacque Wilbur
(call 515-205-0692 or email jacwilbur@gmail.com) with announcements to include in our weekly bulletin or submit articles for our Country Friend newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

FEBRUARY
02/09/2020

Monthly Meeting will be held at approx. 12:15 pm following Pot Luck Lunch, after Sunday School, at 11:45 am.

Sojourners

Valentine Luncheon

February 11, 11:30 am.

Pastor Matt & Beth are hosting. RSVP form in weekly bulletin.



USFW EVE

Sunday, Feb. 16
12:00-1:30

Annual Chicken Noodle Dinner Mission fundraiser



All Youth



1st Sunday, Feb. 2
3rd Sunday, Feb. 16
hangout/game time
6:00 pm

YOUTH

CORNER



Exalting Jesus ~ Making Disciples

COUNTRY FRIEND

MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

February 2020

057 S23 Hwy, PO Box 568, Carlisle, IA 50047

www.MiddleRiverFriends.org

“PEACE BE WITH YOU!”

Matthew W. Smith, Pastor

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” (NIV)

My friends, so often we put undue pressure on ourselves. We expect somehow that we can and should be able to do everything in our lives well and by our own strength. At least well enough that we don't look like a fool. This includes making enough money to take care of our families by providing them a good clean house, a good car, a good place to sleep, food, a place to relax, clean clothes, cell phones, entertainment, and don't forget the toys. How do we accomplish all of this? We work very hard to get the best job possible or we pour our hearts into a business to ensure that we can provide everything our families want. Just for good measure, we may volunteer at school, church, or elsewhere in the community. While we may not want to admit it, we then want some recognition for everything we do. Especially when we are feeling weak or worn out. All of the running around, working late hours, missed hours of sleep cause us in these moments to ask the question, what about me. Sometimes we treat ourselves, eat some chocolate, go shopping, buy a boat or some big toy, but this still doesn't slow down the chase. We are caught up in this cycle of stressing over everything, believing somehow, we can make it all work.



Continued inside...