

*“Make Every Effort”...continued*

Do results always depend on our effort? I don't think so. I certainly tried to remedy my problems, but others were involved, too. Others' calendars, others' inventories, simple errors, and just nature can derail the best of plans.

What does God say about results? Is He always interested in results? Or is He more interested in the process? Rick Warren says, “God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making it happy.” What does that have to do with my problems with household things? All that is just stuff. God may hear my prayers and allow those things to be resolved, but He is much more interested in how I am making every effort to serve Him. How am I making every effort to share the Gospel? (Matthew 28:19 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”) How am I making every effort to be kind? (Ephesians 4:32 – “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”) How am I making every effort to be holy? (1 Peter 1:16 – “for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”) Do I spend as much effort in pleasing God as I do trying to take care of earthly things?

As we begin the New Year, perhaps it is time to take inventory. What fruit do I have to show for last year? What fruit do I want to cultivate in the coming year? What effort will I make to see that my plans are God's plans? And what effort will I make to see them to completion? Our list should include steps to holiness. God has laid out the plan. We need to walk in it.

Ephesians 4:3

**ENDEAVORING TO  
KEEP THE UNITY OF  
THE SPIRIT IN THE  
BOND OF PEACE.**



**OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER DURING THE WEEK:**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 am, Worship Service</b> <b>10:45 am, Sunday School</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>9:00 am, Monday Morning Prayer with Pastor Matt and Friends</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1:00 pm, Prayer Shawl Ministry, 1<sup>st</sup> Tues., Mar. 3 at St. Elizabeth Eaton Church</b> <b>11:30 am, Sojourners, March 10</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6:00 pm, Worship Team Practice</b> <b>7:00 pm, USFW EVE, 4<sup>th</sup> Wed., March 25</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:00 am, Men's Community Breakfast and Bible Study, weekly at MRF Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00 – 9:30 am, Free Community Breakfast</b> <b>First Saturday of each month</b>

*snacks & fellowship*

The kitchen committee has requested that anyone interested in "hosting" the greeting time after service, providing food and/or providing service, is to please contact Cathie Z. at church or by emailing her at [dcfz35@gmail.com](mailto:dcfz35@gmail.com). Thank You!

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” ~ Gal. 6:2

It was decided at our December 2019 Monthly Meeting since we no longer have a line item in our budget for benevolent, that we would be asking for a special offering the last Sunday of each month to build up funds that would go help in our community if needed.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Monthly Meeting

**MARCH**  
**03/08/2020**

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

## Sojourners

**Tuesday, March 10**  
**11:30 am**

**Ardith Cook (devotions)**

**Jim Goodhue (dessert)**

**Pot Luck Lunch**

**St. Patrick's theme**



**APRIL 25, 2020**

**USFW MISSIONARY  
SPRING FLING  
At Honey Creek / New  
Providence**

**Siliara Muganda is our  
Guest Speaker**

**Her husband Patrick is  
pastor of International  
Friends in Minnesota**

## All Youth



**1st Sunday, Mar. 1**  
**hangout/game time**  
**6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**3rd Sunday, Mar. 15**  
**Overnighter**  
**Drop off 6:00 pm –**  
**Pick up 10:30 am**

**Y O U T H**

**C O R N E R**



Exalting Jesus ~ Making Disciples

# COUNTRY FRIEND

MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS NEWSLETTER  
March 2020

4057 S23 Hwy, PO Box 568, Carlisle, IA 50047  
www.MiddleRiverFriends.org

Pastor Matt has recommended the following article reprinted from *The Advocate*, published by the United Society of Friends Women International, Vol.136, No. 1, January-February 2020.

### “Make Every Effort”

by Pat Shrock

President/Presiding Clerk of USFW International

Do you ever think it is just not your day? Or even your month? That was me a few weeks ago. My gas log fireplace quit working. My laptop computer (which was an amazing 10 years old) died; my hot water heater (over 20 years old) leaked, and the water gushed and flooded the laundry room. If all that weren't enough, one of the warning lights came on in my car.

Things did not look good. I called about service for the fireplace and they couldn't get to me for three months! I ordered a new computer and it was on the way...until the order was cancelled by the seller. I bought a new hot water heater and decided it would be a good time to put new flooring in the laundry room. When my installer began the work, he found that the floor had rotted out under the old flooring. I was making every effort to get work done and nothing seemed to be going right!

Then we realized we had the wrong hot water heater (propane gas, not natural gas!) and the proper one wasn't available for two weeks! One more setback! How can this be? I was really making every effort to get things done.

*Continued inside....*

FOOD FOR THOUGH ARTICLE

**MARCH / APRIL CELEBRATIONS!!**

**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

**APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Brian Gerhards
- 5 Leland McCormick
- 21 Linda Koesters
- 23 Howard Heemstra
- 26 Cliff Brandenburg
- 28 Shaelyn Bruske

**APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

- 17 Matt/Beth Smith
- 28 Rob/Bobbie Wheeldon

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5 Roy/Lori Gongwer



**YOUTH GROUP: SODA POP & CHIPS**



Could you add an extra 12 pack of pop or an extra bag of chips to your grocery shopping? As we move forward with our youth group items like these will help them to keep coming back! Pray for this area of our church as it is still in the very beginnings but we are confident that those who come will hear the Word of God and will be blessed!

**LOCAL MISSIONS  
CARLISLE FOOD PANTRY PROJECT**

The nine area churches that participate in the Christian Community in Action (CCA) are sponsoring a Food Pantry Project to provide food supplies most needed in our community.

Each month this year will feature a different food or staples item that is needed. **CCA items needed for March are Ramen Noodles and Pudding Cups.**

The collection box is located outside the Fellowship Hall doors. Your donations are much appreciated.

Contact Karen Myers (989-0310).

**LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE**

Help us love people at the

**CARLISLE CARE CENTER**

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 3:00 pm

Every Five weeks we share the responsibility of providing a “church” service to the residents of this facility! The Pastor and his family sing some songs with them and then Pastor Matt gives them a short message from the Bible. We now do both the Care Center and the Assisted Living area. One service lasts about 30 minutes and we do two of the exact same service to both areas.

It would be great if you could come and sing with us! Please let Pastor Matt know if you can make it on the 29th!



**MISSIONS, March 2020**

As the overall church mission of Middle River Friends Church is “Exalting Jesus Christ by being fruitful disciple-makers, Expressing God’s love by serving all people, the Missions Committee has the responsibility to promote and inspire the spirit of foreign and home missions, sponsor programs relating to the message of a shared gospel with people of the world, and allocate yearly budgeted funds from the Monthly Meeting to the various mission projects, primarily under the umbrella of sponsorship of Friends. Our Missions Committee Budget for 2020 is \$12,000.

During the last two weeks I have had several individuals ask me how Middle River Friends Church is serving local missions. This is a very valid and valuable question for our committee and our church to ask. Most of you are aware of the many foreign missionaries our church has supported over the years in addition to programs at Quakerdale and Camp Quaker Heights. During the last three years through the generosity of Monthly Meeting we are able to expand and increase support for local missions that serve people in our area. As you see from the budget below we will be supporting Mesquakie Friends, the Salvation Army, and Hope Ministries. We also will be supporting the evangelistic goal of our church through the Come 2020 initiative. A portion of the budget can be used to support other local initiatives as they may present themselves during the year.

2020 Missions Committee Budget (approved October 23, 2019)  
Local Missions: Mesquakie (\$500), Quakerdale (\$500), Camp Quaker Heights (\$1,000), Salvation Army (\$400), Hope Ministries (\$500), and MRF Evangelism (\$1,000).

FUM Missions: Friends Theological College (\$500), J. Murou (\$525).  
EFM Missions: EFM (\$2,000), Aguascalientes, Mexico (\$1,000), B. Carpenter, Burundi/Rwanda (\$1,200), Adikhari (\$600), Tamang, Bhutan (\$700), Twaddle’s, Philippines (\$600). OMF Int’l: Martins, Cambodia, (\$475). Other Missions: As need arises (\$500)

Through the use of these funds the work of the Lord continues supported by all of our prayers.

Penny Shenk, Missions Committee Chair