

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEN who have come forward to host an **Appreciation Bar-B-Que Banquet** to thank every first responder, officer, teacher, health worker, county, city, school employee and administrator in our community who have given so much in this uncommon pandemic year.

The guys are doing it all from planning, preparation, cooking, games and activities. We will be observing social distancing and serving food per CDC guidelines.

Saturday, October 17, 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Middle River Friends Church parking lot and pavilion.

This event is by personal invitation. Please take a flyer and invite a first responder, officer, teacher, health worker, county, city, school employee and administrator that you know.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER DURING THE WEEK:

- Sunday** 9:00 am, Sunday School
Adult Class, and Pre-K – 12th Grade Classes
- 10:00 am, Worship Celebration, in person and Broadcast live on Face Book
- Monday** 9:00 am, Monday Morning Prayer
- Monday** 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, MRF Food Pantry
- Wednesday** 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, MRF Food Pantry
- Wednesday* 6:00 pm, Worship Team Practice, ON HOLD
- Wednesday* 6:30 pm, USFW EVE, 4th Wed., ON HOLD
- Thursday** 6:00 am, Men's Community Bible Study, weekly MRF Fellowship Hall, no cooking food at this time.
- Thursday* 11:30 am, Sojourners, ON HOLD for now
- Saturday* 8:00 – 9:30 am, Free Community Breakfast
First Saturday of each month ON HOLD for now



WORSHIP TEAM REQUEST

Do you have a heart and calling to lead others in worship?

Middle River Friends Church is looking for musicians and worship leaders who want to use their gifts and spiritual discernment to lead our congregation in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, encouraging us to make music to the Lord in a spirit of worship. Ephesians 5:19-20 implores us all to do this as we give thanks.

Music plays a unique role in preparing our heart and mind in attitude and gratitude by encouraging the church body in praise and prayer of our Lord. If you feel a calling to be a part of such a team, please talk with us.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Meeting

OCTOBER
10/11/2020

11:30 am
Fellowship Hall
Social Distancing
No meals for now

Fun "SunDAYS" in October

October 4
National Taco Day
World Smile Day

October 11
National Sausage Pizza Day
Clergy Appreciation Day

October 18
Chocolate Cupcake Day
National No Beard Day

October 25
National Greasy Food Day
National Mother-in-Law Day



OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH



KEEP PASTOR MATT AND
HIS FAMILY IN YOUR
HEARTS AND PRAYERS.
LOOK FOR UNIQUE WAYS
TO EXPRESS YOUR
THANKS!

WELCOME!

Beginning Sunday

October 4

Weekly Youth Group

Meeting for

6th – 12th Grades

6-8 PM, led by

Pastor Matt & Beth



Journey to the Center of the SON!

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Exalting Jesus ~ Making Disciples

COUNTRY FRIEND

MIDDLE RIVER FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

October 2020

4057 S23 Hwy, Carlisle, IA 50047

www.MiddleRiverFriends.org

Genuine Thankfulness

Pastor Matt Smith

My dear friends, this summer flew by for us and the kids are two months into school. 2020 has presented us with many headlines which may even be written into a few history books. However, this time shall pass. It is easy to focus on the things we have missed, especially when it has affected us personally. However, what if we sat down and wrote a list of the blessings? It may start with a few items like this...

More time with our kids. A project was finished. Family became more important.

Whatever your list looks like it is not a scale. The truth is pain and blessings should never be weighed against each other. They are often two sides of the same coin and cannot be separated. Yet, so often we forget to count our blessings because we are focused on the struggle.

In times like these I look to Paul's writings in the Bible. In Galatians 6:2, Paul tells us to carry each other's burdens. In Ephesians, he not only says to be strong, but in the Spirit, take all kinds of prayer and requests to the Father. Paul writes in Philippians that we need to have the mind of Christ and rejoice in the Lord and be content in all situations. Paul wrote these words from prison for sharing his faith. He also reminds us in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (NIV). In Colossians 3:15 he reminds us to "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as member of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful" (NKJ). Each of these scriptures teach us a little bit about what it means to live with Jesus. They encourage us to not get distracted by circumstances but stay focused on our relationship with Christ by being thankful. Genuine thankfulness is a key to experiencing true joy.