Dear Junior Yearly Meetings:

At Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) this year we had 13 people age 5-13. We had Bible study and discussed Psalms 8:5-9 and what it means to have “dominion” over the other living things on the earth. Then we read Matthew 5:1-11 and thought about the meek and why the meek would inherit the earth. Also in Matthew 5:,14-16 we read about lighting our lamp and making our light shine.

On Thursday, when we were discussing the meek inheriting the earth, a crop duster flew right over our building. This was both exciting and disturbing. The crop duster did not seem “meek”.

We went to Suzan Erem’s farm, where she is helping the land recover from bad treatment. She is taking care of the earth by letting prairie grass grow back where it used to live naturally. The grass has roots that are 20 feet under the ground and keep the earth from washing away into the Cedar River. We picked mulberries and blackberries. Suzan is being gentle and meek with the earth.

We helped Don Laughlin make a dragon kite. Tomorrow we are going to try to fly it if there is wind.

We did pottery with Shumpei Yamaki, the Scattergood pottery teacher. We got to try hand-building and throwing pots on the wheel.

We shelled and cooked black beans from a garden.

We gathered apples, cut, boiled and milled them into applesauce for the yearly meeting folks to eat on Saturday morning for breakfast. We took the apple cores and bad apples to the baby pigs at the farm.

We played capture the flag with Young Friends.

We attended meeting for worship with the adults each morning. The first day, we tried to notice things outside us, like an ant, a crack in the ceiling, and the speed of the fan. The next day we tried to notice things inside us. We noticed a very calm feeling, feeling good and almost warm, feeling love, and having expanding thoughts. We noticed that if you forget to notice what’s going on inside, you might not notice feelings, especially small ones. Bigger feelings like sadness are easier to notice.

On Friday night we had a picnic, played ag and watched a movie and had microwaved s’mores and pizza since it was raining outside.

We made up a skit about Grimm’s Fairy Tales that we will perform on Saturday night.

Peace in motion,
Josh, Emily, Vivian, Eric, Morgan, Kieren, Callum, Gillie, Mia, David, Simon, Evelyn, Chris