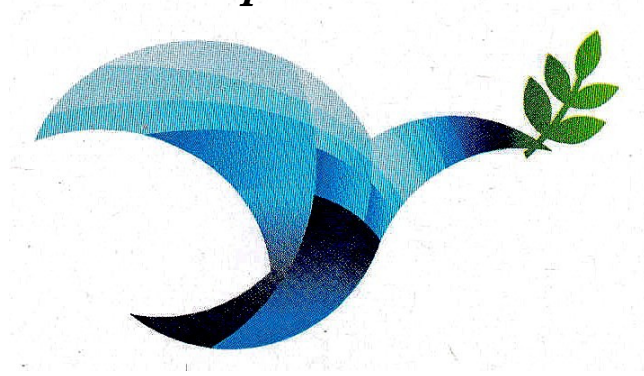


# THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

*April 2024*



*Fairfield Friends Meeting is a diverse Quaker community that lives and shares the peace, love and Light of God in the world.*



P.O. Box 45 · 10441 East County Road 700 South · Camby, Indiana 46113  
(317) 856-3121 [www.FairfieldFriends](http://www.FairfieldFriends).

# The Fairfield Friend –April 2024

## Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

### *Life Is Difficult*

It's April. Easter is in our rearview mirror. The churches in Danville whooped it up during Holy Week, holding extra services, erecting banners on their front lawns in an effort to draw in unaffiliated Christians. Even the Quakers in Danville, hailing as they do from a tradition that believes no one day is more holy than another, posted an Easter sign out front of their meetinghouse. Our concession to the resurrection is our Easter Egg Hunt, this year headed up by Laura Essex, our resident expert on native plants and, as it turns out, Easter Egg hunts.

I've noticed a trend in recent Easter Egg hunts that doesn't bode well, and this is the tendency to make the Easter eggs easy to find, placing them on the lawn, visible from miles away. I'm blind without my glasses but could take them off and still find a dozen eggs at the modern Easter egg hunt. Such ease was foreign to us as children. My father hid eggs in the rain gutters thirty feet off the ground, in squirrel's nests at the top of trees, on top of the chimney, in the hayloft of our barn, in dense patches of poison ivy, and bear dens. It was not uncommon to end Easter Sunday with a broken leg or concussion or both.

I understand the impulse to make things easier for the people we love, especially our children and grandchildren, but there's something to be said about the joy of succeeding in the midst of difficulty, of navigating hardship to better enjoy the prize. I recently gave a speech at a casino in Evansville and had to walk through the gaming room to find the conference room where I was speaking. There wasn't a smile in the place. It was, without a doubt, the most depressing square footage I've ever encountered, and now it occurs to me why. There were hundreds of people in that room looking for easy success without the blisters to show for it. No work, no effort, no commitment, just the mindless pull of a lever hoping for an improvement in their circumstances. I hate gambling with a passion, and now realize why. I despise what it teaches. I worry that the child who thinks eggs should be easily found will become the adult who believes happiness and success should be similarly easy.

My, I'm preaching now, aren't I?

I witnessed that same expectation of ease when the weather turned cold after an elusive week of winter warmth. My neighbor was complaining that global warming wasn't warm enough, cursing Mother Nature and Indiana and the Weather Channel for winter having the temerity to be cold. I bet he was one of those kids whose parents hid his Easter eggs in plain sight.

In his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, the psychologist and writer, M. Scott Peck says, "Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult—once we truly understand and accept it—then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted, the fact that life is difficult no longer matters."

I first read that some 40 years ago. It knocked me over then, and still does every time I reread it. I forget it about five times a day and bellyache about the difficulties I face, when I expect the treasures of life to be easily seen, quickly gathered, and enjoyed without effort. Here's to searching, to having to look high and low, to the blister at the end of the day, to the joy that comes with effort.

## CLERK PLEASE

April 2024

The following highlights are from the March 17 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- In closing his Pastor's report, Phil expressed his continued enjoyment and appreciation for his relationship with Fairfield Meeting, and his hope that the feeling is mutual.
- Mike Chenoweth presented the February Financial Statement. February was a good month financially, with revenue outpacing expenses by over \$2,500, and in spite of utilities being high due to the cold weather. Average Weekly Offering in February was \$2,264 which brought the Year-to-Date Average to \$3,831, roughly \$250 more than this time last year. A net surplus of about \$13,400 resulted in reserves of \$130,542, roughly \$22,500 more than the target reserve. This excess will be reduced in March when quarterly assessments are paid.
- Ann Tarvin presented the report for Ministry and Counsel. Thanks were expressed to all who completed the pastoral and congregational evaluation forms. M&C is discussing the responses and will report their findings in future monthly reports. A congregational pitch-in has been scheduled for April 14, the Sunday after the Concert for Democracy event. M&C will be responsible for set-up and the kitchen supplies. Membership requests were received from Rex Jones and Paula Cardoza-Jones. These were approved. Ann Tarvin and Lee Edmundson will meet with the Jones' to welcome them and gather their statistics.
- Steve Blacketer. Member of the Property Trustees Committee, presented the Trustees report. Trustees are reaching out to Plainfield Fire for a possible training day for interested Fairfield members and attenders to learn how to operate important medical emergency devices, and possibly training in CPR. Rita Goss has created Children Activity bags for children of members and attenders to enjoy during worship services. Clean Up Day for Fairfield grounds will be Saturday, April 6th beginning at 8:30 am and continuing to 12:30 pm. Plans are to trim the bushes behind the 2012 Meeting House, rake around the 1892 Meeting House, mulch around trees in front of the property, clean the entry rugs, and possibly sand/paint the columns on the porches.
- Frank Gladden and Sue Walton welcome history bugs to meet occasionally via zoom with regard to setting a potential date and ideas for how we should be unique in celebrating Fairfield's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. Please contact Sue at: [sue@swwalton.com](mailto:sue@swwalton.com) if interested. Sue shared that August 5, 1826 was the first day for Fairfield Friends Meeting and suggests using this as a "save the date." It was noted that a statement on Native Americans may also be included.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be Sunday April 21 at the Meetinghouse.

## FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

March 17, 2024

Continued input from the Plough Daily Dig. In the words of the publisher:

Start off your day with a jolt – a free, pithy quote from the likes of Arnold, Blumhardt, Dostoevsky, Kierkegaard, Romero, Sundar Singh, Tolstoy, and others, waiting in your inbox every morning. Think of it as caffeine for your conscience.

I read these every morning and save the ones that mean the most to me. The following is the February 26 edition.

### The Riddle of Nature

PETER MOMMSEN

To read the book of nature, you have to actually pay attention – go out and fill your gaze with the stars, or a forest, or a deer. Without this practice, the book is illegible, and it is difficult to make sense of the psalmist’s claim that the “the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” Similarly, it will be hard to follow the apostle Paul’s argument that “what can be known about God is plain to [human beings], because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.”

### What can nature tell us about how to live within it?

We have not done our best communicating on the affairs of Western Yearly Meeting, the parent organization to which Fairfield belongs, and to which we pay significant quarterly assessments. If you are interested you can learn a lot at <https://www.westernyearlymeeting.org>. There you will find a link to Western Work, the WYM newsletter.

Randy Horton, Presiding Clerk

### **Family Promise**

“How can you tell the difference between helping someone and enabling them?” That was my question to a substance abuse counselor. He explained in specific details the things that are helpful compared to the things that would be enabling. His answer was concrete, and it mapped out specific ways we could help.

Later, I asked a woman’s abuse counselor the exact same question. Her answer showed a deeper insight. She said, “The difference between helping and enabling, is not identified by what you do. The difference between helping and enabling depends on the results. Look at what the receiver does with your assistance.”

At Family Promise, success is in the graduates who now live and work in our community. That transformation helped strengthen the families. With our help, Family Promise handles the concrete details.

Thank you for your continued support for Family Promise.

Theresa Minton

## Peace and Social Justice

### Right Sharing of World Resources and \$TAMPING for DOLLAR\$

Submitted by Carol Stradling, Peace and Social Justice Committee

As many of us have done, I've been sorting through boxes of my mother's belongings. One of the boxes which was being held together with yellowed, dry brittle packing tape held several binders of stamps. I didn't want my mother's collection to be tossed, and Google was not helpful.

Shortly after the sorting, Fairfield had a speaker from Right Sharing of World Resources, based in Richmond, IN. The stamp program was mentioned, and light bulbs went off in my head. The message was pretty darn good as well.

\$TAMPING for DOLLAR\$, as the program is officially called, appeared just at the right moment. One phone call to Indianapolis First Friends and a quick stop later I was able to pass along my mother's stamps, clearing out another box from storage, and providing some financial support to a most worthy organization. I love serendipity, and even more when things fall easily into place to make good things happen.

Indianapolis First Friends has assumed the role of processing stamps since 2017. In the six years that they've handled the program, the volunteers have raised nearly \$15,000 for Right Sharing of World Resources. Isn't it wonderful that something of little or no value can get into the right hands and become something of value where needed. You may want to take a second look at the stamps you send or receive.

For more information, visit "*Share Your Abundance*" at the bottom of the Right Sharing of World Resources webpage. <https://rswr.org/>. They accept all kinds of stamps. The website is very helpful, and the volunteers are easy to talk to and ready to assist you. Monetary contributions are also accepted by Right Sharing of World Resources.

## Ministry and Counsel

**Special Easter schedule:** Since Easter falls on a fifth Sunday this year, our worship schedule will be modified. We will hold unprogrammed meeting for worship at 9:00 and programmed meeting for worship at 10:30. There will be no chat room that day. West Newton Meeting will be joining us both in person and on Zoom.

**Add this to your calendar:** There will be a congregational **pitch-in on Sunday, April 14;** this is the Sunday after the Concert for Democracy event. Ministry & Counsel will be responsible for the setup and kitchen supplies.

Thank you to all who completed the pastoral and congregational evaluation forms. At our March meeting we discussed both the pastoral evaluation and the personal participation replies. Several people were concerned about a transition as Phil gets nearer to retirement age; no particular actions were recommended but several ideas for smoothing the inevitable change were discussed. Most of the respondents were generally pleased with his current ministry with various minor changes suggested, which we passed on to Phil.

The personal participation replies were fairly varied, with some wondering how to be more involved and other already at their limit of participation. One idea that we will follow up on in the next few weeks is a meeting-wide survey of any small group activities, formal or informal, so that the group will know what is going on, should they wish to join in. Or, if they would like an activity that is not current, they can start their own interest group.

We will discuss and report on the congregational life part of the ev

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

[tarvedmun@yahoo.com](mailto:tarvedmun@yahoo.com)

## Earth Day 2024

Earth Day 2024 is on April 22nd. According to earthday.org, the focus this year is on ending plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, calling for a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2040 and, specifically, rapidly phasing out single-use plastics and pushing for a strong UN Global Plastic Treaty (you can add your name to the petition on the website).

Did you know:

- it is estimated that 75-199 million tons of plastic are currently in our oceans
- 1 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide and up to 5 *trillion* plastic bags are used every year
- By 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish (by weight)
- 79% of plastic that has ever been made still sits in landfills or in the environment
- Americans alone throw away roughly 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups every year
- Each year, the average American ingests more than 70,000 microplastics in their drinking water
- According to a 2020 study conducted by PEW Trusts, annual flows of plastic into the ocean could be reduced by 80% by 2040 through the application of existing approaches to reduce our consumption of single-use plastics and the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives

Please go to earthday.org to also learn more about how to calculate your plastic footprint and actions you can take to minimize your impact.

Excerpted from Amanda Gorman's poem "Earthrise" [Earthrise poem by Amanda Gorman | Sierra Club](#):

"Climate change is the single greatest challenge of our time,

Of this, you're certainly aware.

It's saddening, but I cannot spare you

From knowing an inconvenient fact, because

It's getting the facts straight that gets us to act and not to wait.

So I tell you this not to scare you,

But to prepare you, to dare you

To dream a different reality,

Where despite disparities

We all care to protect this world,

This riddled blue marble, this little true marvel

To muster the verve and the nerve

To see how we can serve

Our planet. You don't need to be a politician

To make it your mission to conserve, to protect,

To preserve that one and only home

That is ours,

To use your unique power

To give next generations the planet they deserve."

## Outreach Cunot Food Pantry Update

On March 13, 2024 Randy and I traveled to Poland, IN to make a food delivery to Cunot Food Pantry. Mable Capps, the director, sends her thanks to Fairfield for its generous support. April 1<sup>st</sup> will mark the one year anniversary of the pantry's move to it's new location. It's amazing how much work Mable and her family have completed on the building. The large front room has been painted, has curtains on the windows and is organized as a thrift area and food distribution area. A large storage room has been completed. The ceiling has been repaired and large wooden shelves have been installed. A children's area is in the process of being completed. The large kitchen is coming along with a donated stainless steel industrial sink and refrigerator. Multiple freezers and refrigerators have been donated and are located in the area outside the storage room.

Just before Christmas the shed Fairfield purchased for the pantry was destroyed by a drunk driver along with several freezers and refrigerators. Most of the food in the shed was salvaged. There was insurance on the shed and its contents. Mable is working with the insurance company, but it has been a great challenge. She hopes to have the shed replaced this spring. Becky Horton Co-Clerk

*Mabel and Steve Capps and Becky Horton standing where the shed that Fairfield donated used to be.*



**thoughts on consumerism and simplicity**  
**(resurrection of a thought jotted during COVID)**

Anita Camic

I don't know about you, but I am generally always cycling through thoughts and questions that come to me and continue to peck at me until I manage to put all the disparate pieces of the idea together into, I don't know, *something*. A bigger thought? Sometimes. A conclusion or resolution? Rarely. More questions? Yep. Anyway, the Idea that has been tapping on my shoulder for, oh, forever, but most strenuously in the past year or so is this Idea, this social construct of gross consumerism. The economic imperative of continued growth.

Recently, listening to a podcast from Bill Moyers speaking with Sarah Chayes, I heard the term "The Midas Disease" wherein people become so possessed with the accumulation of money that they monetize everything: our Earth – what's on the Earth, what's under the Earth, in the oceans; love, relationships, human labor; it's all monetized. Money becomes the primary indicator of social standing; not honor, not courage, not kindness, not wisdom.

Our houses are bigger, our cars are bigger, we work more hours to get the bigger house and the bigger car and take less vacation time; yet this apparently has not brought us an equal increase in our joy or satisfaction and we know that it certainly has not been good for our planet. I thought of providing supporting data for each of these claims, but then I decided it wasn't really necessary. We all know these things to be true, don't we?

I've been re-reading Phil's book "Living the Quaker Way" and his chapter on simplicity. I didn't pick up the book with that in mind, I just picked it up because I'd been trying to read some George Fox to maybe become a smarter Quaker and frankly wasn't making heads nor tails of it. So, I knew Phil's writing always makes sense to me and decided to re-visit that book and what do you know, one of the first chapters is about simplicity and having ENOUGH. (This reminds me of another favorite Idea – synchronicity.) Anyway. When we decide we have enough, there's SOME for everyone. This is collaboration: smaller house, more economical transportation, reasonable work hours; a small percentage of the population no longer hoards a disproportionate percentage of the economic pie. And we no longer gobble up more resources than Earth can continually provide.

Working from home, again, for the last six weeks or so has allowed me to walk more which is wonderful, and has let me catch up on some of the TED Talks podcasts. Today, the TED Talks speaker shared a story about trying to say "thank you" to everyone involved in making his cup of morning coffee. Hint - it's like splitting an atom: you can go on and on and on into infinity.... So whether we consciously think about it or not, we all have to collaborate for the things we want, even our morning joe. Now, this isn't quite an epiphany, but if we consider how many people on the planet are involved with giving us our morning coffee (or tea), can we just agree that if we want our cup of coffee or [insert here anything you use or just like], we should want those people that are in that very long line of individuals who have brought us our cup of coffee to always be there – we should want the planet to thrive to produce the coffee beans, we should want the businesses involved to thrive and always be there, we should want the people who work in those businesses to thrive so the businesses will continue to exist! So that everyone has ENOUGH so we can all have SOME while not taking more than Earth can sustain.

I think I'll go make a cup of coffee...



## April Birthdays

Randy Horton	April 02
Dominic Lucas	April 02
Bruce Borud	April 09
Caden McClure	April 10
Chase Rhoden	April 13
Joan Gulley	April 15
Hugh Hanlin	April 20
Cristina Emch	April 21
Margo Lawson	April 24
Sally McCracken	April 26

## April Anniversaries

Chris and Anne Gautier	April 27
Michael and Rebecca Fumish	April 28

Certainly I don't have everyone's birthday and anniversary. If you haven't shared yours with me, please e-mail the dates to me at [mbethsymons@aol.com](mailto:mbethsymons@aol.com). Thanks so much. mBeth



**200th Anniversary Fun Fact--**We were recognized as of the 5th day of the 8th month (August 5, 1826.).

Frank Gladden, Jim McClung and I welcome your ideas on how to celebrate. We are one month older than Sugar Grove Meeting.

Sincerely, Sue Walton, Event Coordinator/Convenor.

# April 2024 Calendar

<b>April 02</b>	<b>Trustees Committee 6:30-7:30pm</b>
<b>April 03</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>April 04</b>	<b>Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-9:00pm</b>
<b>April 06</b>	<b>Spring Grounds Clean-up 8:30am-12:00</b>
<b>April 07</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Book Club Discussion 12-2:00pm</b>
<b>April 08</b>	<b>Solar Eclipse viewing party 1:30-4:30pm</b>
<b>April 09</b>	<b>Stewardship Committee 1:30-2:30pm</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>April 12</b>	<b>Concert for Democracy 7-9:00pm</b>
<b>April 13</b>	<b>Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Pitch-In 11:45am-1:00pm</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>Finance Committee 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 12-1:00pm</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>USFW 11am-12pm</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Spring Hike 10am-3:00pm</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship. 10:30-11:30am</b>

## Holding in the Light List

**Mark Milhous**  
**Patti Siemantel**  
**Peggy Cantrel** (Linda Mann's sister)  
**Jerry & Wilma Mowrey** (Cordray's friends)  
**Hisham Awartani**  
**Mary Howe** (Cordray's friend)  
**Sondra Hayes-Hartman**  
**Bill Newell** (Walton's colleague)  
**Tom Farrington's family**

**Louie Geiger's family**  
**Don Hanlin** (Hugh's brother)  
**Mike Jones** (Ellen Blacketer's brother-in-law)  
**Linda Vankirk** (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)  
**Nunzi Newell** (daughter of Walton's colleagues)  
**Ramallah Friends School**  
**WilmaKapcoe** (Exercise mentor at Plainfield)  
**Mary Louise Cardwell**

*And we continue to hold in the light those in our Fairfield family and larger Quaker community who cope with ongoing issues of compromised health or aging, or otherwise live with challenging situations on a daily basis:*

**Jack and Mary Lou** (Mary Dooley's friends)  
**Tom & Jeanne Sagar** (Phil Gulley's sister  
and husband)  
**Alan & Helen Heuss** (Cindy Streitmeier's parents)  
**Margie Wollitz** (Mary's twin sister)  
**Carol Gabbard** (Jeff's mother)  
**Mary Denbo** (Terry's mom)  
**Beth Sotkiewicz**  
**Nancy Graham**  
**Ron Frye**  
**Patty Bowling**  
**Jack & Marilyn Apple** (Joan Gulley's brother)  
**Cam & Dolores "June" Smith** (Bill's parents)  
**Jenny & her mother Jeannie** (Pam Smith's friends)  
**Leah Oye** (Cindy Strietelmieir's friend)

**Ann Denny and daughter Betsey** (Herb's  
mom and sister)  
**Helen Symons** (JB's mom)  
**Mirra LaGasse** (Pam Smith's great-niece)  
**Bob Church** (Rosemary's husband)  
**Margaret Tutewiler-Cox**  
**Daryl T. Brown**  
**Julie Kindle**  
**Mary Lee Comer**  
**Brenda Sellers** (Linze Southwick's mom)  
**Jim & Pat Wilson**  
**Mike Roland** (friend of Bill & Pam Smith)  
**Deann Waltz** (zoom friend)  
**Liz Chrisinger** (Lynne Durocher's friend)

## Meeting Contacts

### Pastor

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### Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

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### Bulletin

Lee Edmunson  
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317-839-3902

### United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill  
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### Fairfield Men's Fellowship

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### Outreach Committee

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Becky Horton  
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### Choir Director

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### Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray  
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317-727-2777 317-727-1678

### Children's Meeting (age 3-3rd grade)

Laura Essex  
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317-871-4717

### Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe  
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Laura Essex  
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### Newsletter

M. Beth Symons  
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317-409-0300

### To Be Added to the Email List

Jeff Gabbard  
[MessgetoFairfield@att.net](mailto:MessgetoFairfield@att.net)  
317-839-3902

### Caring Friends Committee

Dinah Geiger, clerk  
[dinahgeiger@att.net](mailto:dinahgeiger@att.net)  
317-752-5306

**Pianists:** Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Cindy Strietelmeier

## Membership

Membership does not require great moral or spiritual achievement, but it does require sincerity of purpose and a commitment to Quaker values and practices. Membership is a spiritual discipline, a commitment to the well-being of ones spiritual home and not simply appearance on a membership roll.

The above is taken from the Britain Yearly Meeting book on Quaker Faith and Practice. If you desire to join us at Fairfield Friends Meeting to share your and our journey in spiritual growth please contact Larry or Carol Cordray. Our contact information is below.

Carol [Daffodil327@hotmail.com](mailto:Daffodil327@hotmail.com) or 317-727-1678 Larry [Lcordray3388@gmail.com](mailto:Lcordray3388@gmail.com) 317-372-2777