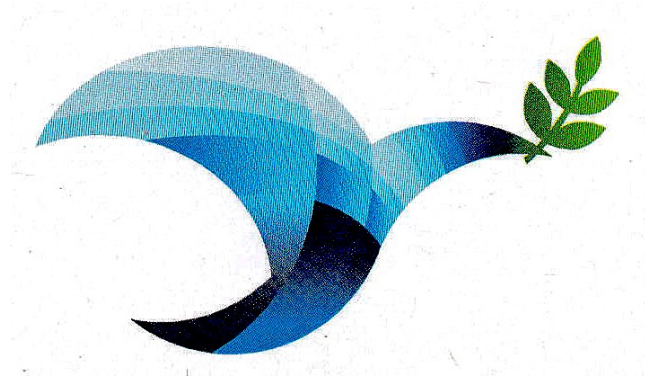


# THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

*August 2021*



*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.org](http://www.FairfieldFriends.org)

**THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY**

Dear Friends,

Each year we write a summation of our meeting's life to share with Friends from around the world. It's called our State of Society report. This is the preliminary report, not yet approved by monthly meeting. Please read it and contact me if you have suggestions for improvement.

***2021 Fairfield Friends Meeting State of Society Report***

It has been a little over 100 years since Friends at Fairfield last experienced a global pandemic, the 1918 flu epidemic, which resulted in the temporary cessation of our meeting for worship. While this year's Covid pandemic required significant changes in our structures and gatherings, we continued to meet and minister the entire year. Friends gifted with technology skills established a Zoom format which we used for over a year, enabling people from around the globe to worship with us. We enjoyed reunions with former members who had moved to Washington, Michigan, Colorado and Norway. We were visited from Friends in Europe, South and Central America, the Middle East and Asia. With Covid ebbing, we have now returned to a hybrid meeting for worship, including both in-person and Zoom participants. A grant from the yearly meeting allowed us to upgrade our website, hardware, and Zoom technology. On any given Sunday, fully a third of our meeting participants join us electronically. We anticipate a good bit of our future growth will come via Zoom. Covid has changed our world in significant ways, even changing how we experience community.

We remain active in Family Promise, a local initiative to prevent homelessness. Additionally, we were able to purchase an outbuilding for the Cunot Food Pantry to use for food storage. We continue our relationship with the Patricksburg Elementary School, providing equipment and supplies to the students and teachers of this financially-challenged school district.

Despite Covid, our Affinity Circles continued. A women's book study was enjoyed by many women in the Meeting, a writer's group continued to gather electronically, and a men's group met outdoors each week, and continues to do so. Our USFW and Quaker Men also remain active.

Our meeting continues to provide space for a licensed mental health therapist to help local persons with counseling needs. Additionally, we have established a fund to help subsidize mental health treatment for those who need it.

Sociologists report the fastest growing segment of religious affiliation in the United States are the "nones" and "dones," those who have no affiliation with organized religion and those who have left it. While we are pleased to be "holding our own" numerically, the aging of our meeting is evident to us. Several parents in our meeting are working together to expand our ministry to children, an effort is underway to include young persons in the technology side of worship, all with good effect.

**THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY (Cont'd)**

Our need for additional pastoral leadership is evident, but we remain uncertain about the focus of ministry, whether we should employ a children's pastor, a pastor to women, or someone who can provide technological leadership and support. We are concerned that so few people feel called to ministry among Friends, but suspect it has something to do with the inadequate pay most Friend's ministers receive, so are working hard to provide a sound financial footing for our meeting that will enable us to provide adequate compensation for future leadership. To that end, several Friends spent the year designing a "generosity" program for our meeting, emphasizing the importance of dedicated and generous support for our ministries. It seems to be taking hold. We ended the fiscal year above budget, despite significant expenditures we hadn't anticipated, including additions to our heating and cooling systems to fight Covid and the demolition of our parsonage.

The area around our meeting is growing, as Plainfield expands its park system, which will eventually adjoin our property. Plans are underway to build a roundabout at our corner, likely necessitating either the relocation or demolition of our unused 1892 meetinghouse. Each choice presents challenges, opportunities, and difficulties. Our way forward is not yet clear.

We remind ourselves that we are not in the building business. We do not exist to save or build structures. We gather to reflect and promote the priorities of Jesus. Our mission is not to pass on buildings, but to pass on a world view centered on compassion, justice, peace, and human well-being. To the extent our structures help us accomplish that, we are grateful. When they compromise that objective, we must question their necessity.

Though the year has been challenging, it has also been enlightening. We have learned the center of true community is in our shared ideals and affection, not in a building. We are excited at the possibility of offering this community to a global family.

**CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK**

August, 2021

The following highlights are drawn from minutes for the July 11 Monthly Meeting:

- We ended June and our fiscal year very close to the 2020-2021 budget. Revenue nearly matched expenses, but we ended with a small surplus. Average weekly offerings were slightly higher than the previous year.
- We regularly receive multiple copies of current and past issues of Quaker Life. These can be found stacked on the table in the library.
- Tara Stewart has proposed a program for children ages 3 to 8th grade during Meeting for Worship. The program was approved by Ministry & Counsel as well as the Covid Committee. The program will start July 18.
- No further communication has been received from Plainfield regarding their plans for our intersection. Bill Smith attended a meeting in which Plainfield presented an overview of proposed plans for Sedalis Park. Land surrounding the Meeting House is in play.
- Phil Gulley noted that the Meeting has ended the counseling relationship with Laura Jay-Ballinger as she has opened a full-time practice. Because the counseling arrangement has been very beneficial to many in the Meeting, it is felt that we should continue a similar arrangement. Phil has proposed a plan to do so. Please see the July 11 Monthly Meeting minutes for details.
- **Please stay tuned for Email regarding the conditions for Meeting for Worship as these continue to evolve.** For now, we will continue to wear masks inside the Meeting House because children are not yet vaccinated. When children are vaccinated masks will no longer be required.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be August 8.

**CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK (Cont'd)**

## MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION July, 2021

The following prayer, written by me for a Methodist youth group of high school students in New York, pretty well sums up my own spiritual experience.

Great Master of all things:

We cannot ignore your presence in our lives,  
but we are often confused by the ways of our world.

Please help us to see, as difficult as it is to accept,  
that there is a reason for everything,  
and we will get all we deserve.

Give us strength to shape our world in a positive fashion,  
and learn from our failures as well as our success.

We will share our joy when we can,  
and try not to dwell on our misfortune.

Let us pledge to pursue our lives energetically,  
to carry a positive attitude,  
and be the best example we can for the people we touch.

We hope to interpret and apply Jesus' own examples,  
and realize his teachings in heaven on earth.

Thank you for letting us gather here,  
to turn away from ourselves for a moment,  
and enjoy each other's personality.

I have a favor to ask. In an effort to boost participation in Monthly Meetings I am seeking your input. In particular, we would like to know if you prefer Meeting following Sunday worship, as we did prior to the pandemic, or via Zoom some other time on Sunday. Please let me know your preference, by emailing me at [randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net).

We have sometimes 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

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE****Fairfield Friends Meeting Supports Right Sharing  
of World Resources**

Fairfield has long been a supporter of Right Sharing of World Resources. In the past, the Meeting has hosted RSWR's two-day board meetings. Ken Sheets and Mary Lee Comer have served on the board of directors with Mary Lee having served as clerk of the board. Fairfield USFW (United Society of Friends Women) has made bracelets and donated the sale proceeds to RSWR. The Outreach Committee continues to donate to the organization.

For over 50 years, Right Sharing of World Resources has helped marginalized women in Kenya, Sierra Leone and India establish micro businesses. The mission statement of RSWR is as follows: "God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God's love, to work for equity through partnership with our sisters and brothers throughout the world."

Field representatives in Kenya, Sierra Leone and south India assist with proposals requesting seed money for women to begin micro businesses that are compatible with the skills, culture, resources, and markets available in their local economies. Each micro business can support 20 to 45 women. Examples of businesses are flower vending, vegetable and fruit vending, tailoring and embroidery, cotton hand glove sewing, bamboo basket making, and raising chickens and eggs.

Your support of Fairfield's General Fund will allow our Outreach Committee to continue to support RSWR. In addition, you can help support RSWR by designating the organization as your charity when you order on Amazon. You must order using Smile.Amazon.com and select your charity and order as normal. Amazon will donate .05% of the price of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to your charity. You can find out more about RSWR and sign up for their electronic newsletter on their website [www.rswr.org](http://www.rswr.org).

**TRUSTEES****Building Availability**

Fairfield is gradually returning to normal activities, with in person worship on Sundays and the building available for committee meetings during the week, provided published protocols are followed. These include vaccinations, masking and social distancing. Other groups within Fairfield, such as Tai Che and The Writers Group, are also asking about returning to the building. Advising the trustees in advance of these desires is important so that decisions can be made and our custodian, Sherry Christian, can be informed. She remains protective of our health and her own, and it is essential she be included in our discussions. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**WANTED**

**A person who likes to be informed**

**Someone who is good with deadlines**

**A creative person**

**Apply soon – post will be filled before you know it!**

Tom Farrington has published the Fairfield newsletter for several years and is needing a replacement as he has acquired many other positions which are filling his days. Tom has generously agreed to turn over all his files and instructions to whomever would like this responsibility, and he would be a wonderful tutor to teach his replacement. If this is an interest to you, please contact either Lee Edmundson (tarfedmun@yahoo.com) or Lynn Adams (ladams612@yahoo.com).

**Anyone interested please respond soon in order to continue the issuance of the Newsletter. In the very near future I will be discontinuing my involvement in the Newsletter and hate to see it be discontinued. Tom**

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Fairfield Friends Meeting has enjoyed 2 months of in-person/Zoom meetings. The ones who kept us connected all during the previous 15 months have taught us how to manage the equipment by training 12 people to control the iPads relatively well. Those of us who have been trained will be much better with each turn. This greatly relieves Treg Hopkins and John Essex so they may worship in their own way, not tied down to responsibilities to the Meeting.

There has been some confusion about where to sit in the pews and part of that confusion is because we have changed it from originally sitting where there was a post-it note. Now, we ask that you and your family group sit where there is a bulletin which has been placed on the pews at a distance apart. Every other pew will be empty. If there is not bulletin in a pew, please find another pew to sit in.

We have also learned that those joining on Zoom need to always mute themselves unless they are adding an announcement or a joy or concern. Asking for the Zoom visitors to speak at the beginning of each of those has worked out very well.

The children will begin their activities during church on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Gan Baker and Tara Stewart will oversee those activities in the dining room. Parents should take and pick up their children.

We will be wearing masks until the children are vaccinated, begin singing with masks on beginning Aug. 1, and adjusting the distance of 6 ft. apart to 3 ft. apart on Sept. 5.

Hopefully, enough people will soon be vaccinated that we will be in control of the Covid virus. Until that time, we need to be vigilant, as this last increase in cases nationwide is showing us.

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

August
Jim & Becky McClung (08/01)
Jeff & Laura Gabbard (08/04)
Jo Ann Farrington (08/06)
Timothy Harding (08/06)
Roger & Mary Ann Long (08/07)
Randy & Becky Horton (08/09)
William Denny (08/11)
Zach Rhoden (08/14)
Jill Wiley (08/15)
Albert & Cindy Vidal (08/15)
Louis & Dinah Geiger (08/15)
Mark & Cindy Strietelmeier (08/15)
Ashley Smith (08/16)
Andre Mork (08/16)
Jonathan & Rafia Chenoweth (08/16)
Linda Bryant (08/19)
Randal Coffin (08/19)
Julie Kindle (08/19)
Liesl Mork (08/19)
Donald & Natalie Clark (08/19)
Dan & Phyllis Dwyer (08/20)
Dan & Sarah Stephens (08/20)
Leah Sitonik (08/20)
Charles Heavlin (08/21)
Philip & Robin Kinsley (08/27)
Andrew & Courtney Hickam (08/28)
Bill & Peggy Lookabill (08/28)
Mindy Cunningham (08/29)
Steven & Blair Hickam (08/29)
Cindy Hurst (08/31)
Dave & Lynne Durocher (08/31)

September
Paul L. & Monique Howard (09/01)
Thomas Farrington (09/05)
Dale & Margaret Gladden (09/05)
Gene & Carol Carter (09/05)
Allison Swift (09/06)
Herb & Stacey Denny (09/06)
Ralph Baker (09/09)
Ava Matthews (09/09)
Ralph & Gan Baker (09/10)
Kyler & Janet Schoen (09/11)
John & Courtney Cowley (09/13)
Lynne Durocher (09/14)
Robert Heald (09/15)
Bob & April Stevens (09/16)
Kevin & Cynthia Day (09/16)
Richard & Julie Culbertson (09/16)
Pamela Smith (09/19)
Patti Siemantel (09/20)
Brad & Althea Borud (09/23)
Daina Chamness (09/25)
Mark McClure (09/25)
Sarah Lookabill (09/26)
Perry & Mary Beth Williams (09/26)
Eric & Amy Sageser (09/28)
Kyle & Lesley Rhoden (09/29)





September—Monthly Activities

<i>Sunday (08/29)</i>	<i>Sunday (09/05)</i>	<i>Sunday (09/12)</i>	<i>Sunday (09/19)</i>	<i>Sunday (09/26)</i>
Fifth Sunday	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship	Meeting for Worship
	Outreach	Monthly Meeting for Business	Write Club	Finance
	Write Club			
			<i>Monday (09/20)</i>	<i>Monday (09/27)</i>
			Newsletter Articles Due	USPW
				10:00 am
<i>Wednesday (09/01)</i>			<i>Wednesday (09/22)</i>	
Trustees			Men's Fellowship at Gray's Cafeteria	
6:30 pm			6:00 pm	
	<i>Thursday (09/09)</i>			
<i>Thursday (09/02)</i>			<i>Friday (09/24)</i>	
Ministry & Counsel	Meeting for Eating		Ivan Volk wedding rehearsal	
7:00 pm	11:30 am			
<i>Saturday (09/04)</i>		<i>Saturday (09/18)</i>	<i>Saturday (09/25)</i>	<i>Saturday (10/02)</i>
Yarn Works		Peace & Social Justice	Ivan Volk wedding	Yarn Works
2:00 pm		9:30 am		2:00 pm

Fairfield Friends host  
Family Promise  
September 26

**MEETING CONTACTS**

<b><u>Pastor:</u></b> <b>Phil Gulley</b> Philip@philipgulley.com	317-446-4923
<b><u>Presiding Clerk of the Meeting:</u></b> <b>Randy Horton</b> randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net	317-839-9682
<b><u>Recording Clerk:</u></b> <b>Lynne Durocher</b> Ld091449@yahoo.com	317-888-7242
<b><u>Treasurers:</u></b> <b>Mike Chenoweth</b> mocnenoweth@gmail.com <b>Karen Heald</b> healdrobt@att.net	317-445-0387 317-696-6133
<b><u>Membership Coordinators:</u></b> <b>Larry &amp; Carol Cordray</b> daffodil327@hotmail.com	317-372-2777 317-372-1678
<b><u>Bulletin and Newsletter (info due by 20<sup>th</sup> of month):</u></b> <b>Tom Farrington</b> thomasfarrington1946@gmail.com	317-839-3902
<b><u>United Society of Friends Women:</u></b> <b>Sarah Lookabill</b> slookabill@att.net	317-839-4712
<b><u>Fairfield Men's Fellowship:</u></b> <b>Ralph Baker</b> baker7298@sbcglobal.net	317-831-3526
<b><u>Outreach Committee:</u></b> <b>Stacey Denny</b> hdenny123@att.net	317-313-1171
<b><u>Caring Friends Committee:</u></b> <b>Becky McClung</b> rgmcclung@gmail.com	317-690-0160

**MEETING CONTACTS (Cont'd)**

<b><i><u>To Be Added to the Email List:</u></i></b>	
<b>Tom Farrington</b> thomasfarrington1946@gmail.com	317-839-3902
<b>J. B. Symons</b> jb@leadtogreat.com	317-409-3945
<b><i><u>Nursery (under age 3):</u></i></b>	
<b>Sue Roe</b> Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net	317-445-9333
<b><i><u>Children's Meeting (age 3—3<sup>rd</sup> grade):</u></i></b>	
<b>Ralph &amp; Gan Baker</b> baker7298@sbcglobal.net	317-831-3526
<b><i><u>Fantastix Friends (4<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade):</u></i></b>	
<b>Tara Stewart</b> Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com	317-627-8964
<b><i><u>Young Friends (9<sup>th</sup> grade—college):</u></i></b>	
<b>Jimmy McClung</b> moviemanjim@gmail.com	765-346-8848