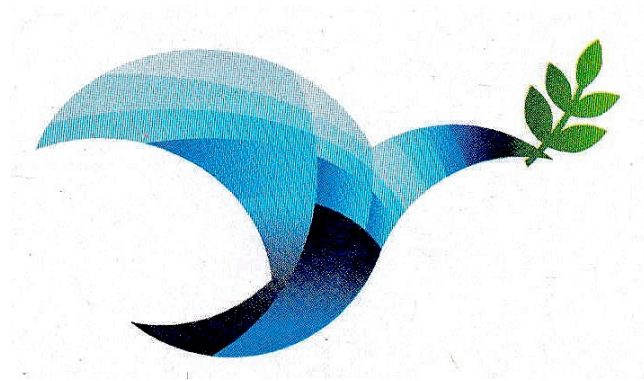


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

August 2022



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



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The Fairfield Friend – August 2022

Dear Friends,

I am still attempting to update the anniversaries and birthdays for our congregation. Please let me know if I may not have your information. As always, please send feedback on the newsletter when you see errors or misinformation. Summer is fleeting. I certainly hope you are enjoying it.

M. Beth Symons

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

The Common Good

It is a source of some embarrassment that I went 60 years without ever reading Kurt Vonnegut, a fellow Hoosier. This past year I finally got around to reading *Slaughterhouse Five*, his anti-war novel informed by his time as a POW during WWII amid the firebombing of Dresden, Germany. You would think a Quaker pacifist would be well versed on anti-war novels, but you'd be mistaken. I avoided Vonnegut because while in high school, I'd been told he was an atheist and therefore a dangerous man not worthy of my attention. I can't help but wonder what other great books I've missed because a small-minded, fearful person thought atheists were a danger to humanity.

I'm starting a new sermon series on humanism, the belief rooted in a strong interest in or concern for human welfare, values, and dignity. After the sermon, Ned Steele mentioned that Vonnegut had been the honorary president of the American Humanist Association, and Jeff Gabbard quoted a line from Vonnegut, that "we are healthy only to the extent that our ideas are humane."

It might be that the same person who warned me about Vonnegut's atheism, also warned me about humanism, another worthy topic I've avoided for these many years. But no longer. In the Sundays ahead, I'll be delivering a series of messages on the theme of humanism. During my research, I have discovered the many similarities between humanism and Quakerism. I'm not the first to observe the resemblance between the two philosophies. As far back as 1939, a group of Quakers formed an organization called The Humanist Society of Friends. You can read all about them at their website, thehumanistsociety.org.

Too often our beliefs about God divide us, rather than unite us. Humanism, with its emphasis on the common good, might well have a healing word to offer our world. After sixty years, I'm more than ready to hear from a group of folks the church has often excluded. I'm more than ready to set aside my fears of the other, and I'm certainly more than ready to stop demonizing those I know little about. I hope this exploration on which we are about to embark will prove meaningful and helpful to all of us. Ironically, I hope our examination of humanism, will empower and inform our collective lives in Quakerism. At the conclusion of our time together, I hope we'll all be more willing to think deeply and broadly about our human condition and what we might do to improve it.

Fairfield Friends Green Team

As a member of the newly formed Fairfield Friends Green Team, I recently attended a Multi-faith Climate call where the current heat wave in Europe and the war in Ukraine were discussed. On the call were pastors and priests from around the globe, representing many faiths, United Methodists, Episcopalians, Unitarian Universalists, Church of England, Bahá'í, and 1 Quaker. I was intimidated, at first, to be on the call. There was excited talk of getting all our congregations to “ring-out” their church bells the Saturday before the November United Nations Climate Change Conference. I told them that we Quakers aren't that much into bells, but our pianist has a bowl-gong that I'm sure he'd be happy to whack at the appropriate time. That elicited a few smiles and eye rolls about Quakers, and I felt more at ease.

Joking aside, it was gratifying to spend time with others to express our shared concerns about our world and the work we're all doing. The work we're doing at Fairfield is in the creation of our Green Team. The Green Team held its first meeting on July 16th. A small, but enthusiastic group of Friends met to discern ways to make our Meeting House and community more energy efficient, and to acknowledge that our Quaker values extend to all creation. As Quakers we acknowledge that we see that of God in everyone. Creation care calls us to extend that value to see that of God in all of creation. Our kinship with God's creation connects us through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the soil that grows our food.

During our meeting, Anita Camic gave an update on the pollinator garden project she started with the Garden Club. She and others are working to create much-needed habitat for pollinators and a beautiful space, full of native plants, for future generations at Fairfield to enjoy.

At the end of the Climate call we were asked what gives us hope. I answered that our community at Fairfield and our Green Team are among the things that give me hope. Hope brings us together in the pursuit of a better world and sustains us when we feel despair.

If you are anxious about our future, I encourage you to join us on the Green Team and register for the below event, sponsored by our Friends at QEW.

[Ecological Grief: Engaging with the Emotional Impacts of Climate Change](#)

Our next meeting will be August 27th at 11AM via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please visit our website <https://www.fairfieldfriends.org/green-team> or reach out to me for the Zoom link.

Jeff

Upcoming Events: Fall Hike
 Viewing Party for the [Documentary film, 2040](#)

Ministry and Counsel

Ministry and Counsel are planning to host an ice cream social after Meeting for Worship on **Sunday, Aug. 28**. The committee will provide makings for sandwiches, table service, and ice cream. If anyone likes to make homemade ice cream, we would certainly accept your contributing some, but the committee will be providing most of the ice cream. If you want to bring some ice cream, please let a member* of the committee know before our next meeting, Aug. 5, when we will finalize our plans. (*Committee members: Lynn Adams, Linda Bryant, Larry Cordray, Jeff Gabbard, Amanda Gainey, Linda Mann, Ann Tarvin)

Please note the information about the Quakerism Class which is in the newsletter. The committee is excited about this class taught by Max Carter and we hope that many of you will join on Zoom for these sessions.

We thank Mark Strietelmeier for bringing the message on July 3 for Phil who was struggling with covid at the time. We rejoice that Phil was able to win his battle with the disease and has now begun a new series on Humanism after adding one more message on Spiritualism upon his return from Alaska.

Family Promise

**Community Almost Home Open House—Saturday, July 30 from 11am-1pm
Lunch and Tour**

Everyone is welcome! The first week with the families at Almost Home will be the week of August 1. Families experiencing homelessness in Hendricks County will now have an overnight shelter with Family Promise, while working toward their own home! Come and see what all the excitement is about at Almost Home!

FamilyPromiseHendricksCounty.org

Hope you can attend,

Theresa

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 or 317-727-1678 Larry Lcordray3388@gmail.com 317-372-2777

**Quakerism Class
by
Max Carter**



You are invited to participate in a Quakerism Class instructed by Max Carter, retired director of the Friends Center at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina

Max Carter will teach this class on Zoom for 5 consecutive Thursday evenings at 7 PM, starting on September 22.

If interested in participating in this wonderful experience, please send your email to ladams612@yahoo.com and you will be sent a link before the first class.

August Birthdays

Lane Slaughter	August 03
Jo Ann Farrington	August 06
Timothy Harding	August 06
Theresa Minton	August 07
Will Denny	August 11
Skip Lyford	August 12
Zach Rhoden	August 14
Jill Wiley	August 15
Andre Mork	August 16
Ashley Smith	August 16
Mike Goss	August 18
Linda Bryant	August 19
Randy Coffin	August 19
Julie Kindle	August 19
Liesl Mork	August 19
Charles Heavlin	August 21
Mindy Cunningham	August 29
Cindy Hurst	August 31

August Anniversaries

McClung, Jim and Rebecca	August 01
Gabbard, Jeff and Laura	August 04
Horton, Randy and Becky	August 09
Geiger, Louis and Dinah	August 15
Strietelmeier, Mark and Cindy	August 15
Vidal, Albert and Cindy	August 15
Durocher, Lynne	August 31

CARING FRIENDS

Holding in the Light List

Bill and Jo Maris (Stacey Denny's parents)
Helen Symons (JB's mother)
AnnaBelle Westfall (Carol Cordray's friend)
Deann Waltz (Zoom Friend)
Family of Dianne Mork (Robb's mom)
Family of Trudy Waggoner (Lynne Durocher's friend)
Pat Bostwick (Pam Smith's friend)
Patti Evans (Frank Burns Sister)
Barbara and Keith Raffell (Frank Burns sister and brother-in-law)
Family of Curt (Frank Burns best friend)
Becky McNabb
Curtis (Joni Leverett's friend)
Kaye Frye (& Ron)
Randy Coffin
Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)
Evan Maxwell (Tara Stewart's brother)
Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy Horton's sister)
Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)
Margaret Tutewiler-Cox
Margo Lawson
Patty Bowling
Martha Pokorny (wife of Cliff Prentice's friend)
Lauren Chinn (daughter of Larry Cordray)
Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles & Elsie Carter)
Joe Sadler (Phil & Joan Gulley's friend)
Daryl T Brown
Julie Kindle
Beth Sotkiewicz
Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)
Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)
Chris Gautier

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:

Mary Denbo (Terry's mom)
David and Jennifer Hodge
Charles and Leslieann Lee
Abdul Suilaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family
Tom & Jeanne Seger (Phil Gulley's sister and husband)
Mildred Kirchhoff (Steve's mother)
Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitmeier's parents)
Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Proverbs 4:25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.

Focus

by

Theresa Minton

The two needles on the serge sewing machine danced with synchronous hops down through the material and back up with measured precision. It was 1976, and my job was to sew together the long panels for Sears and Levi Strauss raincoats. The machine's scissors trimmed the material to a crisp edge and the thread looped around the edge to complete the seam. The room was filled with machines humming, and I found the metallic rhythm relaxing, at first. The minutes turned into hours and the hours turned into days. After three days, I was bored with my new job.

Perhaps I could busy my mind by writing children's books. One story began when Lilly, a sow, was declared worthless by the pig farmer because she only had two piglets. But the farmer's daughter had bottled fed her at birth, and she was a pet. One day another sow in the barn gave birth to 17 piglets. The problem was, that sow only had 12 teats. So, the extra piglets had to be taken away. The farmer's daughter was put in charge of the five extra piglets. Lilly, her pet sow, became the focus of attention. Lilly became a foster mom and was cherished for her parenting. Just like the story of the ugly duckling, my story created a new focus. The farmer's disdain came when he pointed out Lilly's negative points. The focus changed to what Lilly could do. She was not worthless after all.

In the sewing factory, my day-dreaming helped me pass the time, but when the paycheck arrived, I made almost half of what Ruth made. Ruth operated the serge machine that was directly in front of me. She explained her added income. Our bundles were counted. When we sew more pieces than our rate, we earn a couple of pennies for each extra piece. Minimum wage had jumped from \$2 an hour to \$2.10 an hour. Ruth reported that she was already making more than that, and when the wage changed, her piece rate was re-calculated, and she did not get an increase in pay. Only those making minimum wage made more.

I began to watch Ruth from behind. And without her knowing it, I raced her. Everything seemed important. The methodical way she placed her bundles, the way she held and aligned the material as it flowed through the sewing machine, and the way she tied the bundle off quickly. Everything helped her reduce wasted time and increased her final count. By the end of the third week, I made piece rate though I was still way behind Ruth in the count.

The bundles were picked up, inspected and passed on to another row where the pockets were sewn on with a tedious top stitch. Sarah had been sewing on pockets for three years, and she had never made piece rate. She was upset at my achievement and her complaint grew over several months. She believed her rate for stitching pockets was not fair. Eventually, the company man came with his stopwatch. He stood in front of her machine for two hours, counting her pieces and looking at his watch. For the first time, she made her piece rate. "I don't understand," she said. "I wasn't even going fast. All I did was stay focused."

And there you have it. The most important lesson on how to accomplish something was handed to me by someone who could not meet her goals. I continued to work there for six more months, and Sarah never did get additional money. She needed to maintain the higher count for the entire week. Whereas, I continued to break my record every pay cycle for the 13 months that I worked in that factory. I never did catch up to Ruth, but I was close.

Stephen Covey says, "Begin with the end in mind." And that could be a general starting thought. But the secret to accomplish something was to focus on the details of the task.

And as Lilly, my fantasy pig taught me, what others focus on determines what they think.

August 2022 Calendar

- August 3** NA Support Group 7-8pm
- August 4** Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8pm
- August 7** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- August 10** NA Support Group 7-8pm
- August 13** Peace and Social Justice 9:30-10:30am
Garden Club – Dollie’s Farm 10:30am-12:30pm
- August 14** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- August 16** Stewardship Committee 2:30-3:30pm
- August 17** NA Support Group 7-8pm
- August 18** Finance Committee 7-8pm
- August 21** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Meeting for Business 7-8pm
- August 24**
- August 27** Garden Club (Zoom) 9:30-10:30am
Green Team (Zoom) 11am-12pm
- August 28** Chat Room 9:30-10:30am
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Ice Cream Social 11:30am
- August 31** NA Support Group

Meeting Contacts

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Recording Clerk:

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Treasurers

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Fantastix Friends (4th-8th grade)

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