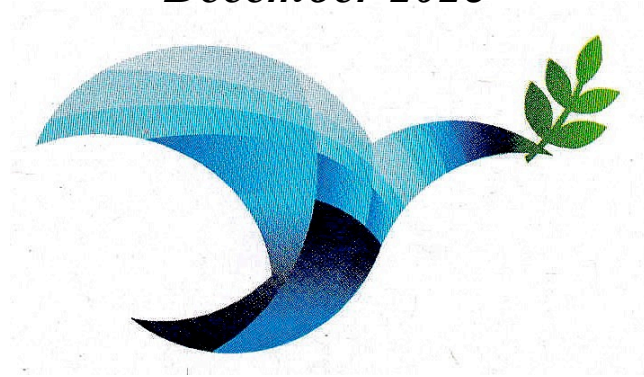


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

December 2023



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 –December 2023

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Acting as if . . .

Have you ever been expected to celebrate an event you were in no mood to observe? I feel a bit that way this Christmas season, celebrating the Prince of Peace in a war-torn world. There is a hint of futility about it, until one remembers that Jesus never guaranteed peace so much as he described the mindset necessary for it—complete forgiveness, a radical love for the enemy, transformative compassion, and extravagant generosity. I hope one day to live in a world where these qualities are universally embraced and practiced, don't you? Instead, we live in a world of "until then." Until these qualities become pervasive, how shall we live?

In the 1920s, the Austrian psychotherapist, Alfred Adler, developed a therapeutic technique he called *acting as if*, affirming that "if you want a quality, act as if you already have it." In common parlance, we say, "fake it until you make it." I'm a big believer in the fake-it-until-you-make-it school of thought. I suspect Jesus believed it, too. Fake it until you make it. Practice love until it fills you. Exercise forgiveness until you feel it. Practice compassion until it becomes your true nature. Give unstintingly until it becomes a habit. Fake it until you make it.

Inherent to these virtues is the effort to understand, which means careful listening and thoughtful discernment, both difficult habits to learn, and yet so essential to global well-being. To that end, we're inviting you to participate in a Zoom workshop on the evenings of December 4th and 11th, when the Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso and Quakers Dan and Jane Carter will meet with us via Zoom to discuss the current tensions in the Middle East, and the history that drives these difficulties. Just before the Zoom events, you'll be receiving a Zoom link so you can watch, ask questions, and learn.

To soften our hearts, we'll gather on Sunday, December 3rd, for meeting for worship, followed by our holiday pitch-in dinner. Meat dishes will be supplied, but you'll need to bring a side dish or dessert or both. We'll also be celebrating Snowflake Sunday that day, so come to the meetinghouse ready to participate.

There you have it, F(f)riends, the perfect month—an opportunity for joy, the chance to learn, and, as always at our meeting, the opportunity to love. If you've gotten out of the habit of community, I hope December finds you back at Fairfield, where you are cherished.

Fairfield Monthly Meeting and Devotion and Clerk Please

Because the November monthly meeting was postponed, no report can be shared at this time.

We all wish Randy well and a speedy recovery.

BOOKS N BRUNCH NOTES:

Thanks to everyone who attended November 4th BOOKS 'N BRUNCH, to both to eat and to volunteer!! We tried some new menu items that people seemed to like. The event made \$373.00 that the next Meeting for Business will determine how/what to use. Two trunk loads of left over food were donated to ALMOST HOME, the shelter of FAMILY PROMISE, immediately following the event.

Sincerely,

Sue Walton, Event Chair

Family Promise

December 24th through December 30th will be our Fairfield / Family Promise support week. We pledged to provide meals for the families living in the shelter as well as a restock of items at the Resource Center. The week between Christmas and New Years is particularly important for several reasons.

The children at Almost Home will not be in school that week. So extra food can be used for the next day's lunch. Some families may have Holiday plans with extended families, and our people count may need adjusting daily. And finally, the Family Promise staff that tend to our struggling homeless population throughout the year would appreciate special time with their personal families. If anyone can assist as a host, please let us know.

To adjust, Almost Home has an extra freezer, so meals could be made in advance and stored until needed.

Family Promise is committed to our progress for the families that fall into struggling times, which includes those who struggle during the Holidays. Many thanks to everyone for your continued support.

Theresa Minton

Ministry and Counsel Report

November 2023

There are several variations in our December schedule this year:

- December 3: Snowflake Sunday (during worship)
 Pitch in Dinner after worship (M&C to provide meat and drinks)
- December 24: Morning worship will conclude with candle lighting as Frank Gladden sings
 "One Little Candle." There will be no evening program.
- December 31: Fifth Sunday Unprogrammed Worship. Because this is New Year's Eve we
 are trying something new; we will have a pitch-in meal for the
 unprogrammed worshipers. All are welcome.

We will remind Friends that they have just given thanks (we hope) for all that they have in material possessions and beyond. It is good to recall this as you move into a very commercialized Christmas season and to reflect on the testimony of simplicity and the concept of "enough."

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

Cunot Thanksgiving News

On Tuesday, November 14, Becky and Randy Horton and Steve and Nita Kirchhoff delivered Thanksgiving meal items to the Cunot Food Pantry in Owen County. Thanks to the generosity of Fairfield Friends, we exceeded our goal and provided more than 250 each of the three food items—stuffing, green beans, and macaroni & cheese. In addition, thanks to a very generous anonymous Fairfield donor, a check for \$2000 was provided to cover the cost of chickens for the Thanksgiving meals. Mabel Capps, the food pantry manager, told us that all the food would be distributed to area residents in need on Saturday, November 18. And she was very appreciative of all our support throughout the year. Here are some photos from the delivery day. Thanks again to everyone at Fairfield Friends for your ongoing support to the Cunot Food Pantry throughout the year.



Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has decided that **Chords of Love** will be the recipient of our Christmas efforts this year. We will be collecting items three Sundays in December - December 3rd, December 10th, and December 17th. We will set up a table in the dining room where items can be placed (please mark that the items are for Chords of Love).

Needed Items Include:

Toilet Paper	Paper Towels	Laundry Soap	Dish Soap
Soups	Coffee	Cooking Oil (vegetable, olive, etc)	
Canned Vegetables and Fruits		Fruit Juices	

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Committee.

Joan Gulley, Co-clerk of Outreach.

December Birthdays

Sandy Chenoweth	Dec. 01
Olivia Denny	Dec. 01
Elizabeth Steele	Dec. 02
Mary Lee Comer	Dec. 07
Cindy Coakley-Vidal	Dec. 09
Austin Settles	Dec. 09
Brian Swift	Dec. 10
Madeline Gulley	Dec. 13
Lucas Swift	Dec. 14
Bob Stevens	Dec. 15
Herb Denny	Dec. 20
Rita Goss	Dec. 21
Becky Horton	Dec. 22
Jim McClung	Dec. 24
Paige Robbins	Dec. 24
Jack Essex	Dec. 27
Sean Gainey	Dec. 28
Patty Bowling	Dec. 29
Ann Davidson	Dec. 31

December Anniversaries

Georges and Kathryn Gandolfo	Dec. 16
Michael and Sandy Chenoweth	Dec. 18
John and Alma Pierce	Dec. 21
Spencer and Jessica Gulley	Dec. 22
Mike and Mindy Cunningham	Dec. 27
Lane and Carolyn Slaughter	Dec. 28

The Write Group is still selling its recent collection of stories, poems and essays for \$10. If you are interested in buying one, please let **Beth Symons or Theresa Minton** know.

December 2023 Calendar

- December 3** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am (Snowflake Sunday)
Christmas Pitch-In 11:45-
Items for Holiday Cheer Bags due today.
- December 5** **Trustees Committee 6:30-7:30pm**
- December 6** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- December 7** **Ministry and Council Committee 7-8pm**
- December 9** **Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am**
- December 10** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Assemble Holiday Cheer Bags during Sunday School
Cookie Exchange 11:30am in the kitchen
Book Club Discussion 12-2pm (Chapters 9-11)
- December 12** **Stewardship Committee 1:30-2:30pm**
- December 13** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- December 14** **Finance Committee 7-8pm**
- December 17** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30
Meeting for Business 7-8pm
- December 20** **USFW Christmas Dinner 6-8pm at Gray's Cafeteria in Mooresville.**
Make reservations with Sue Walton (847-209-0047) prior to the dinner.
- December 20** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- December 24** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- December 27** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- December 31** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30**
Meeting for Worship (Unprogrammed-5th Sunday)
Pitch-In 11:30

Fairfield Holiday Events

Dec. 3rd -

- **Snowflake Sunday** and **Christmas Pitch-in** at rise of worship. More information about the pitch-in later.
- **Items for the Holiday Cheer Bags due today.** The Meeting gives these bags to friends who need some extra care at this time. This year we are packing 21 bags. Ideas for the bags are chap stick, hand lotion, candles, hand sanitizer, soap, puzzle books, notepads, pens, puzzles, coloring sheets and colored pencils, candy, fruit, individually packaged baked goods, individual Kleenex, and anything else you think they would like. Please put the items on the table in the Conference Room (in the foyer/Gathering Area on the left) and mark them for Holiday Cheer Bags. If you would like to help assemble the bags, or deliver the them, folks will be putting these together on 12/10/23 in the Conference Room during Sunday School.

Dec. 10th -

- **Assembling Holiday Cheer Bags** in the Conference Room DURING SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- **Cookie Exchange-** Everyone is welcome to participate in the Cookie Exchange in the kitchen immediately following worship. Don't miss it.

December 20 -

- **USFW Christmas Dinner** - All adults of any age are invited to our annual Christmas Dinner. This year it will be at Gray's Cafeteria in Mooresville on Wednesday (free pie night), **Dec. 20th at 6PM.** RSVPs need to be made to Sue Walton (847-209-0047, text or call) prior to the dinner. Folks will meet in the entry area at 6:00 PM and go through the line together. We will give them a total number before going through the line for table set up. Depending on the number of people, we may have two groups of tables, like we have done in the past, one for women and one for men.

If you have **questions** about any of these activities, you can call or text **Sarah Lookabill** at 317-431-6342 or **Dinah Geiger** at 317-752-5306.

Holding in the Light List

Sondra Hayes-Hartman
Josie Uray (Josiah Hostetler's friend)
Dr. Golian (Sondra Hayes-Hartman's doctor)
Family of Bob Havens
Jim Wolfe (Sondra Hayes-Hartman's friend)
Cam & Delores "June" Smith (Bill's parents)
Joni Leverett family
Jack and Marilyn Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)
Tory Sprinkle (Don Adams' friend)
Karen Adams (Pam Smith's Friend)
Jenny & her mother Jeannie (Pam Smith's family)
Jack & Mary Lou (Mary Dooley's friend)
**Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles
& Elsie Carter)**

Louis Geiger
Leah Oye (Cindy Strietelmeier's friend)
Deanna Waltz (zoom friend)
Carolyn Smith Goings (zoom attender)
Mark & Susan Milous
Don Adams
Ramallah Friends School
Beth Becker (Sue Walton's friend)
Liz Chrisinger (Lynne Durocher's friend)
Bob Montgomery (Goss's friend)
Mike Roland (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)
Holly Hoag (Sue Walton's sister)

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:

Abdul Sulaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family
**Tom & Jeanne Seger (Phil Gulley's sister
and husband)**
Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitlmeier'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

**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)
Marty (Carol Cordray's friend)

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

Phil Gulley
philiphgulley@gmail.com
317-446-4923

Choir Director

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net
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Outreach Committee

Joan Gulley
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317-709-8376

Caring Friends Committee

Becky McClung
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317-690-0160

Becky Horton
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To Be Added to the Email List

Tom Farrington
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317-839-3902

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker
baker7298@sbcglobal.net
317-831-3526

Membership Coordinators

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daffodil327@hotmail.com
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317-372-1678

Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe
Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net
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Bulletin

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317-839-3902

Children's Meeting (age 3-8th grade)

Tara Stewart
Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com
317-627-8964
Jimmy McClung
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765-346-8848

Newsletter

M. Beth Symons
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317-409-0300

United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
slookabill@att.net
317-839-4712

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Hubert Perry

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