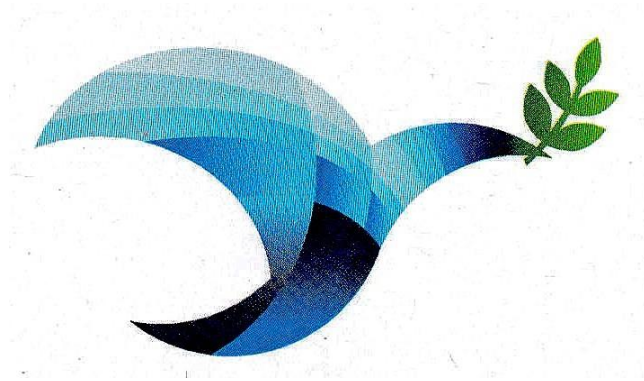


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

May 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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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the return of the Fairfield Friends Newsletter. I am certain that errors have occurred and omissions are evident. Please let me know what needs fixing and including and whatever else I might need to make this a valuable resource. Currently the list of birthdays and anniversaries is in such need of repair, that I have excluded it. Is someone interested in taking on this project? I will be happy to include it once we have an updated and accurate list. Your patience and input in all matters will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

M. Beth Symons

“Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is.” Jessica Harrelson

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY

My Spring Advice

This past month has been unusually bleak and rainy. I have no data to support that observation, no facts to show we've received less sun and more rain than usual. I only know what I feel, which is damp and cold. So several weeks ago, when Joan told me it was time for our magnolia trees to bloom, I told her it wasn't going to happen. Not this year, I predicted. But then, of course, they bloomed, as flowers have for some 125 million years, if one can trust science, which I do.

No matter how bad things get, the flowers eventually bloom.

A recent scientific poll conducted by me, surveying 100% of our household, found spring to be the season of choice. I was taken aback by the results of my poll because those participating in my research have expressed a fondness for haying season, autumn leaves, and winter evenings at the woodstove, yet spring still stood out as the most cherished of all seasons.

Why is that? Why with all the glories each season offers, is spring cherished above the others? For Joan, it's the flowers, especially the lilacs, which bloom right around her birthday at the tail end of April, as if gift-wrapped from God.

I like spring for the chores—sharpening the mower blades and changing the oil, walking the yard to check for baby bunnies, a regular task ever since I accidentally dismembered a rabbit family of six, an event so horrific I am still unable, a dozen years later, to purge it from memory.

Madeline can sniff out a nest of rabbits better than any hound, so she takes charge of that operational phase, pacing back and forth across the yard, looking for the telltale sign of dead and rumpled grass the rabbits collect for their nests. I have cataracts and can't tell a rabbit's nest from a wig, so Madeline's keen eyesight is needed and appreciated.

Another pleasurable task of spring is taking down the firewood racks down from the back porch and bringing the porch furniture up from the basement, which I did last week, just before it turned cold again. But should warm weather eventually arrive, we'll be ready.

My motorcycles have been cleaned and serviced and are now ready for what promises to be an exhilarating summer of travel. Riding a motorcycle with cataracts is always an exhilarating experience, careening from one side of the road to the other, dodging hazards both real and imagined. The Quaker Oatlaws are planning a trip to western Virginia in mid-July, provided both bikes and riders are fit and ready. So you can expect a sermon or two to be peppered with motorcycle stories. (The earliest known mention of the motorcycle appeared in Exodus 32:18. *“The roar of Moses's Triumph could be heard all over Israel.”*)

Ah, the lessons of spring—be prepared, keep a watch out for small ones, enjoy the flowers, and have a goal. And just remember that no matter how bad things get, the flowers eventually bloom.

Tenth Anniversary of the Brick Meeting House

May 20, 2022 marks the tenth anniversary of the dedication of Fairfield's brick meetinghouse. Using the theme "From Generation to Generation Since 1826" a dedication service was held fifth month, 20th day 2012 to dedicate the brick meetinghouse. The dedication day meeting for worship began in the white meetinghouse with greetings from Earlham College and thoughts on Looking Back by Jennifer Silvers. Gifts of Faith, Hope, Love, Spirit, and Time were taken with us to the new building. At the new building, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony and we entered the new building led by our oldest member, Mildred Clark, followed closely by Gordon Mork, the youngest member. In the new meetinghouse, we joined together in prayer and received greetings from Western Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting. The choir and flute choir presented several musical selections and Phil Gulley spoke on Looking Forward. The service closed with the singing of the hymn "Here I Am, Lord". In typical Fairfield fashion, a pitch-in meal followed.

If you would like to learn more about the building of the brick meetinghouse and the dedication service including photos, there is a scrapbook in the library. There is also a scrapbook with photos of Fairfield's Sesquicentennial in August 1976. These scrapbooks are in the bottom drawer of the pull-out drawers under the binders containing Monthly Meeting minutes. Feel free to look at these scrapbooks, but please do not remove them from the library.

Contributed by Lynne Durocher



Foundation



Construction



Dedication

Fairfield Pitch-In

May 1, 2022

(Following Meeting for Worship)

Come join your F/friends on May 1 after Meeting for Worship for the first Fairfield pitch-in in over two years! Bring your favorite dish to share as we socially gather in the dining room. Table service and drinks will be provided. See you there!

Ministry and Counsel

Having just completed two months of being back to in-person Meetings, the Ministry and Counsel committee rejoicing in the conditions that enabled Fairfield Friends to accomplish this! As our first Meeting on Feb. 27th came a few days after the CDC lifted the mask mandate, we have been able to meet restriction free and pray that this continues as we still are learning to live with Covid.

After having our Meetings on Zoom for several years, Fairfield has been joined by persons from other states and even other countries. In order to keep those with us, the Meeting now has a hybrid service which enables F/friends to be in-person at the Meetinghouse or to participate on Zoom. Treg Hopkins has been instrumental in setting this up for Fairfield and has trained several people to control the system each Sunday. The Meeting is very appreciative to Treg! Since the last newsletter, we have been privileged to have Julie Randall from Family Promise, Laura Jay-Ballinger, Hugh Hanlin, and Bob Henry from First Friends speak to us bringing outstanding messages. On May 1st, Fairfield will be honored to have Colin Saxton from Everence speak. This occasion is being organized by the Stewardship committee and will be followed by our first pitch-in in over two years!

With the opening of services to in-person, we have been able to dedicate our babies and young children again! In the last two months, we have been delighted to dedicate **Lydia Emch**, daughter of Christina (Vidal) and Jake Emch, **Ezra Mae Swift**, daughter of Allison Swift and Bobby Smith, and twins **Mari Jeniece** and **Josephine Anna**, daughters of Matt and Allissa Impink. What delightful additions to the world!

CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK

CLERK PLEASE

May 2022

The following highlights are from the April 24 Monthly Meeting, be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- We continue to maintain good financial health. March was an expensive month, largely due to Yearly Meeting assessments, building maintenance and capital expenses for Trustees, and Outreach charitable contributions. In spite of a net deficit for the month of March, Reserve funds ended well above the target of 75% of last year's expenses.
- Fairfield's Ministry and Counsel Committee continues to be satisfied with the in-person Meetings now beginning the 3rd month. We have seen the average attendance for our hybrid system increase from 70 in January, to 80 in February, to 106 in March. Still working on improving screen shots, and working to have a welcoming person on Zoom to lead everyone in visiting before the actual Meeting starts.
- Thanks to all who participated in landscape cleanup day held April 16. Shrubs were trimmed, unruly bushes removed, mulch spread, and river rock added in some areas.
- Approval was reached for Trustees request to eliminate approximately \$5000 annual expenses for the 1892 structure which has been in 'caretaker mode' since moving to the brick Meetinghouse in 2012. The unanimous recommendation of Trustees was that propane service, HVAC maintenance, and electrical service be discontinued, and that the insurance policy be reduced to personal liability only.
- Painting of the sanctuary and gathering area was completed the week of April 24.
- Consideration of updates to the Fairfield handbook continues. If you have not already done so, please review the documents distributed on April 11, they contain requested revisions from all the committees. Please direct questions or concerns to Randy Horton or Lynne Durocher.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be May 15.

MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION April, 2022

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 April 8 edition.

We Fear Silence

Richard J. Foster

The tongue is our most powerful weapon of manipulation. A frantic stream of words flows from us because we are in a constant process of adjusting our public image. We fear so deeply what we think other people see in us that we talk in order to straighten out their understanding. If I have done some wrong thing (or even some right thing that I think you may misunderstand) and discover that you know about it, I will be very tempted to help you understand my action.

Silence is one of the deepest disciplines of the spirit simply because it puts the stopper on all self-justification. One of the fruits of silence is the freedom to let God be our justifier. We don't need to straighten others out.

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

Many thanks to those who supplied food for our Family Promise during our last host week. I love teamwork and being part of this productive group supporting the homeless in our community.

This past month volunteers at Fairfield Friends gathered up the toys, books and other items that were used during our in-house support years of Family Promise, and delivered those items to the Resource Center, the day care, and to St. Marks. Our Meeting House has now been cleaned of Family Promise hosting items.

Signing up to donate meals to Family Promise families is now done through a web page. I kept with our quarterly schedule and signed Fairfield up for four weeks a year. Our next pledge week begins June 20th, 2022. In the event anyone wants to donate food outside our Fairfield pledge week, the dinner sign up page is located at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0c4ea5af2ba6f58-dinners> Or if members of Fairfield would like to change our quarterly pledge frequency in either direction, please let me know.

Almost Home is a seven-bedroom house purchased by Family Promise to use as an emergency shelter for families in transition. It is located in Hendricks County on five acres of land, 7233 E County Road 300 S, Plainfield. Currently they have well water, but they plan to transition to city water. I have suggested the land could host a community garden, and perhaps the well water should remain usable. Grace Nuffer is overseeing the transformation and the house, barn and pool-house are getting a much-needed clean-up.

Target date for the Almost Home opening is June 1st, with an open house the first week in June. A lot needs to be done. What are your thoughts?

Peace to all,

Theresa Minton

CARING FRIENDS

HOLD IN THE LIGHT LIST

Ron Frye

Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)

Constance Ward

Margaret Tutewiler-Cox

Tom & Jeanne Seger (Phil Gulley's sister & husband)

Olya Mangusheve (Amanda Gainey's friend)

Ken McClung (Jim's brother)

Margo Lawson

Randy Coffin

Nikki Holland (Belize Friends Ministry Director)

Eliot Cole's aunt & cousin

Helen Symons (JB's mother)

Patty Bolwing

Kathe Bryant (of Plainfield Friends Meeting)

Martha Pokorny (wife of Cliff Prentice's friend)

Lauren chin (daughter of Larry Cordray)

Jack Apple (brother of Joan Gulley)

Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles & Elsie Carter)

Joni Leverett

Joe Sadler (Phil & Joan Gulley's friend)

Mary Louise Cardwell

Mildred Kirchhoff (Steve's mother)

Alan and Helen Huess (Cindy Strietelmeier's parents)

Daryl T. Brown

Julie Kindle

Beth Sotkiewicz

Bill & Jo Maris (Stacey Denny's parents)

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mother)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Chris Gautier

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 mother)

David & Jennifer Hodge

Charles & Leslieann Lee

Abdul & Misreen Rasheed family

Responsible peace

The peace we seek and need means much more than the mere absence of war. It means the acceptance of law, and the fostering of justice, in all the world. - President Dwight Eisenhower, 10/31/56, Radio and Television Report to the American People

In charcoal predawn light I stood at our deck's glass doors and watched a helicopter head towards the town hospital. A night landscape was washed in moonlight that backlit tree branches and sent skinny shadows spreading out over the ground. In the lovely calm, I relaxed, and enjoyed artistic images of twig fingers reaching upward like skeletal bouquets.

That night I realized our house is on a path for medical helicopters that come from the north. For a variety of reasons, my thoughts turned solemnly to considering the tumultuous outcomes if such flights were interrupted by weapon attacks. I felt acutely aware of the pivotal role peace plays in our lives.

Not since the attacks of September, 2001, have Americans felt the unforgettable pain and trauma, of foreign enemy attacks within our land. While we have a value for cultivating peace, the 20th century was full of wars that involved our nation. The crises that led to WWII were dramatically different from those that led to fighting the Vietnam War. Common to both conflicts, soldiers sacrificed body and spirit, and sought victory in war before they could arrange a peace. Much like the people of Ukraine yearn for peace and demonstrate such courage in fighting to defend their land.

For the past three decades I've affiliated with a church that has a peace testimony. In 1660 a dozen British Quakers signed a Declaration to Charles II that they would not fight against the government, as some other religious groups had done during the recent civil war. That declaration formalized a peace testimony for the Society of Friends and clarified their belief that working for justice through nonviolent methods would be one of their spiritual priorities.

The earlier quote from President Eisenhower in 1956, is grounded in civic responsibility and ethical decisionmaking. Even though it was said over sixty years ago, I like the quote's explanation of specific standards for peace, including acceptance of the rule of law and value for justice. Many of my friends and neighbors describe similar principles. Sometimes I wonder how many of us have lost the ability to discern and evaluate peaceful steps toward solutions. When we think we know the answers to resolve a conflict before we fully understand the issues then we're probably hindered. On one recent day when steeped in these thoughts, I noticed a news article about a personal injury case that was resolved through restorative justice, noting it was the first time such a mediation tool had been used in Indiana criminal cases. Our understanding can be expanded.

In the book, [His Truth is Marching On](#), author, Jon Meacham recounts the life long work of Congressman John Lewis. As a teen, Lewis began studying the nonviolent advocacy modeled through the philosophies of Jesus, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Thich Nhat Han and others. While President Eisenhower reminded us that fostering peace grows from lawful governance and obedience to the rule of law, our country continued evolving a decade after his remarks. For the brutal treatment of civil rights protestors at the Edmond Pettus Bridge in March, 1965, is where Lewis and others were badly injured. We do slowly inch forward with deeper recognition of the interdependence of all life. Peacemakers may be generals, presidents, protestors, buddhist monks, friends, pastors or even city planners.

Linda Mann

MEETING CONTACTS

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<p><u>Recording Clerk:</u> Lynne Durocher Ld091449@yahoo.com</p>	317-888-7242
<p><u>Treasurers:</u> Mike Chenoweth mochenoweth@gmail.com</p> <p>Karen Heald healdrobt@att.net</p>	317-445+0387 317-696-6133
<p><u>Membership Coordinators:</u> Larry & Carol Cordray daffodil327@hotmail.com</p>	317-372-2777 317-372-1678
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<p><u>United Society of Friends Women:</u> Sarah Lookabill slookabill@att.net</p>	317-839-4712
<p><u>Fairfield Men's Fellowship:</u> Ralph Baker baker7298@sbcglobal.net</p>	317-831-3526
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<p><u>Caring Friends Committee:</u> Becky McClung rgmcclung@gmail.com</p>	317-690-0160

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