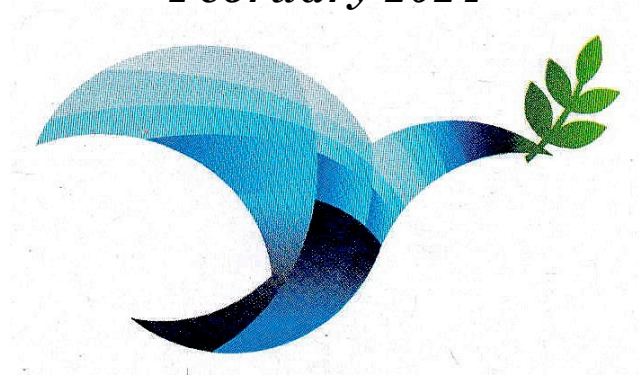


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

February 2024



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 –February 2024

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Connections

I have three brothers, each of whom I deeply love, despite their eccentricities. They feel the same way about me. Not long ago, I was talking with my brother Doug about longevity, and he said he intended to live to the age of 120. He's a vegan, and like most people on weird diets, has an overinflated sense of its benefits. Do you remember Euell Gibbons, the health food champion who spent his adult life telling people what to eat? Mostly, he ate granola, vegetables, and sticks, before dying at the age of 64, or 20 years less than my father who ate mostly hamburgers. (Little known fact: Euell Gibbons was a Quaker who worked as a cook at the Pendle Hill Conference Center in Philadelphia as a cook.) Remember Jim Fixx, the jogging guru, who died at the age of 52, while, ironically, jogging. Earlier this month, when it was brutally cold, I walked exactly 282 steps one day and I've still outlived Jim Fixx by 10 years.

After a decades-long study, we now know the chief cause of longevity. I'll give you a hint, it isn't diet or exercise. Since I eat mostly hamburgers and walk under a thousand steps a day, this thrills me to no end. Want to know the secret to longevity? It's social connection. The more you interact with others, the longer you'll live. But the benefits of social connection don't stop at longevity. According to the same study, you'll also be happier and enjoy better mental health than those with a limited social life. That's right, folks, when you were a teenager and your parents wouldn't let you go to parties, they were unwittingly shortening your life.

I used to believe Christianity offered us eternal life, thought I don't any longer. But it's nice to know there's some evidence Christianity, and other religions, might offer us a longer, happier, healthier life, by virtue of the social connections they provide. The more we connect, the better we live. That might explain why Sunday has become my favorite day of the week. I leave our time together warmed by friendship.

When I was a kid, a Pentecostal family lived across the street from us. They attended church Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, and Friday evening. I thought they were religious kooks and felt sorry for their children. It was certainly true that some of their beliefs were a bit odd, but I couldn't deny their obvious happiness. They were never short of friends, never had to face the challenges of life alone, and seemed to face the rigors with a cheerful optimism. While I have no desire to become a Pentecostal, I still envy their relationships. The more we connect, the better we live.

During our Christmas Eve meeting for worship, Jim and Becky announced that their son Jimmy will be looking for a church closer to his home in Bloomington. I love Jimmy to pieces and already miss him. But I'm delighted at the prospect of him making connections and friendships with the people where he lives. One of life's greatest joys is seeing people we know as we go about our daily affairs. I imagine Jimmy bumping into his newfound friends at the grocery store, at the theater where he works, on the buses he rides. The more we connect, the better we live.

How are your connections? Do you take the initiative to reach out, to phone, to share a meal, to drop in for a visit, to invite someone over, to chat with your neighbors, to come to meeting and see your friends? Not only will you live a longer, happier, and healthier life, it is so much more fun than being a vegetarian and exercising.

Family Promise

Family Promise is a community based non-profit program in Hendricks County. Volunteers and donations are encouraged, welcomed, and necessary for the organization to thrive. Our next pledge week begins March 26th. During pledge week, Fairfield Friends provides meals for the families at Almost Home as well as stocking the kitchen and pantry at the Plainfield Resource Center. The center is the hub for resources and staff. People in need can go to the Resource Center for laundry, bathing facilities as well as the kitchen staples. Counselors are also available.

Peace and Social Justice

Religion Seminar Series

**Butler University Seminar on Religion and Global Affairs and Visiting Black Intellectual Series presents:
Black Diaspora: Faith and Expressions**

The 2023–2024 series is an exciting new collaboration between Center for Faith and Vocation—Seminar on Religion and Global Affairs and the Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement’s Visiting Black Intellectual Series.

The timing of this seminar series is intentional in its connection to the approaching ending of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent 2015–2024. The Center for Faith and Vocation in partnership with the Hub for Black Affairs and Community Engagement will present unique perspectives throughout the year on how Black people throughout the African Diaspora understand, practice, and express their faith/spirituality in meaningful and culturally collective ways. This series will not be comprehensive in presentation but will provide examples to encourage further exploration and dialogue among various audiences. Central to this series will be a focus on the necessity of faith and spirituality as a vehicle for resilience and resistance to oppressive conditions and struggles that especially affect Black people.

All events take place from 7:00-9:00 PM, Shelton Auditorium, on the South Campus of Butler University. Recordings will be made available after the event at: [Religion Seminar Series | Butler University](#)

Black and Jewish

Monday, February 26, 2023, 7:00 PM

This seminar will involve the showing of the film, Queen Esther, and a discussion with the filmmaker Ira Mallory and two featured actresses—Erreol Robinson and Paige Wells, who will specifically discuss their specific roles. Ira Mallory is native to Indianapolis and in addition to responding to audience questions about the film, he will discuss how the intersections of his Jewish faith and his filmmaking work allows him to be more authentic.

CLERK PLEASE

February 2024

The following highlights are from the January 21 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Phil closed his Pastor's report saying: It continues to be deeply satisfying to serve as your pastor and I want to reiterate that I am always available if you are struggling or need someone to listen.
- Mike Chenoweth presented the December Financial Statement. December was the end of a good year in 2023. Total Budgeted Expense was under budget roughly \$2,700.00. Total year-to-date Revenue was over budget about \$3,500.00. Although there was \$2,700.00 savings in Expenses and \$3,500.00 excess Revenue, distribution of Excess Funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 brought the year-to-date Net Deficit to \$204.62, essentially breaking even. This year's Average Weekly Offering of \$2,985.18 was roughly \$250.00 more than last year. It was noted that the budget created for 2023 was very well done.
- Randy read the Ministry and Counsel report prepared by Ann Tarvin. M&C has scheduled a soup lunch on February 25th after worship. Members of M&C will provide soups and crackers and will invite everyone to bring additional soups and/or simple accompaniments. Easter coincides with Fifth Sunday this year, so our schedule will be modified. We will hold Unprogrammed Meeting at 9:00am with Programmed Worship at 10:30am. There will be no Chat Room that day. M&C also plans to have a Fifth Sunday pitch-in after worship on June 30 as the one in December was enjoyed by all who attended.
- Clerk Bill Smith presented the Trustees report via Zoom. A proposed Letter of Intent regarding the 1892 Meetinghouse has been presented to the Town of Plainfield; we are awaiting any modifications to proceed. LED bulbs have been purchased for the candelabra in the Meeting Room and Gathering Room and will be installed when time allows. When the weather clears in the spring, we will move forward with re-roofing the garage. Bill closed with the reading of a Minute of Appreciation for Jim McClung, expressing deep gratitude for the many accomplishments achieved under his direction as Clerk. This was approved.
- Laura Essex reported for Christian Education via Zoom. The Children's Safety Policy had been distributed to the Meeting following the December meeting for business; there were no changes requested. The Children's Safety Policy was approved.
- Linda Bryant presented for the Nominating Committee, proposing that Craig Reasoner to be appointed to Property Trustees. The proposal was approved. It was noted that this leaves one position open on the Finance Committee. Finance Committee does not feel this open position is currently hindering its work and intends to continue to wait for a member to be identified to fill this opening.

- 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 200th anniversary in 2026. We need to put ourselves on the WYM calendar, so we don't have competition. Sugar Grove meeting will also be celebrating that year and has a taskforce set up by WYM's property trustees to work on their event. Since Sugar Grove is not air conditioned and currently does not have indoor plumbing; their event will be in the Spring or Fall. July needs to be watched due to the potential FUM TRIENNIAL, the HENDRICKS COUNTY FAIR and the BRICKYARD 500. Please contact Sue at: sue@swwalton.com if interested.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be Sunday February 18 at the Meetinghouse.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

January 21, 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 December 28 edition.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

STEPHEN MICHAEL NEWBY

Singing “Go Tell It on the Mountain” on Christmas Eve reminded me of Psalm 133, the “song of ascents” that begins, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Speaking of this psalm, Walter Brueggemann writes, “The poem anticipates the solidarity and harmony of all humanity as it lives without defensiveness in a creation benevolent enough to care for all.” In the same way, “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” reflecting the heart-language of the enslaved, invites us to join in solidarity with all creation as we live out God’s liberating kingdom here on earth. The gates of hell shall not prevail against God’s kingdom when, singing these songs of liberation and unity under the power of God’s spirit, we make a decision to ascend with Christ and to rise above cultures of disunity.

[Singing spirituals is a relational, communal act of worship that joins us together.](#)

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

Follow-up to the IFCL Meeting

IFCL needs our help on promoting tenants' rights--#277 & Wetlands #246. We need to discourage our legislatures from approving #1383, a bad environmental bill.

For more information, please check out IFCL Plain Speaking, or QuakerIFCL.org website to raise awareness. Please spread the word.

Sue Walton

Ministry and Counsel

January 2024

When our teens had a Young Friends group in past years, they served a simple meal to the meeting every year to thank us for our support of their activities. Though we have children attending now, we don't currently have teens. After some discussion (and a bit of nostalgia), M&C decided that we missed this interlude in the dark part of the year and so we have scheduled a **soup lunch on February 25** after worship. Members of M&C will provide soups and crackers and will invite everyone to bring additional soups and/or simple accompaniments.

Looking further ahead, we approved inviting West Newton Friends to join us for worship on Easter Sunday. Easter coincides with Fifth Sunday this year, so our schedule will be modified. We will hold Unprogrammed Meeting at 9:00 with Programmed Worship at 10:30. There will be no Chat Room that day.

In other business, we discussed pastoral and meeting evaluations and hope to have forms available for you by the end of February. We also plan to have a Fifth Sunday pitch-in after worship in June 13 as the one in December was enjoyed by all who attended.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

February Birthdays

Conner McClure	February 03
Mary Swift	February 03
Phil Gulley	February 05
Jennifer Silvers	February 05
Devin Leverett	February 07
Mark Strietelmeier	February 11
Laura Essex	February 14
Rebecca Furnish	February 14
Joni Leverett	February 18
Colton McClure	February 24

February Anniversaries

Kathy Lueck	February 18
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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. Thanks so much. mBeth

February 2024 Calendar

February 01	Ministry and Counsel Committee
February 04	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
February 06	Trustees Committee 6:30-7:30pm
February 07	NA Support Group 7-8pm
February 10	Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am
February 11	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Book Club Discussion 12-2:00pm
February 13	Stewardship Committee 1:30-2:30pm
February 14	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
February 15	Finance Committee 7-8:00pm
February 18	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 12-1:00pm
February 21	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
February 25	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
February 26	USFW 11am-12pm
February 28	NA Support Group 7-8pm

Holding in the Light List

Mark Milhous
Patti Siemantel
Peggy Cantrel (Linda Mann's sister)
Jerry & Wilma Mowrey (Cordray's friends)
Hisham Awartani
Mary Howell (Cordray's friend)
Sondra Hayes-Hartman

Michelle Taunton (Sue Walton's colleague)
Don Hanlin (Hugh's brother)
Mike Jones (Ellen Blacketer's brother-in-law)
Linda Vankirk (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)
Ken Crenshaw (Edmundson/Tarvin family friend)
Ramallah Friends School
WilmaKapcoe (Exercise mentor at Plainfield)

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
Louis Geiger
Deann Waltz (zoom friend)
Lliz Chrisinger (Lynne Durocher's friend)
Mike Roland (friend of Bill & Pam Smith)

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

Phil Gulley
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317-446-4923

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
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Bulletin

Tom Farrington
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United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
Slookabill@att.net
317-431-6342

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker
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317-831-3526

Outreach Committee

Joan Gulley
jgulley@danville.k12.in.us
317-709-8376

Becky Horton
beckyhorton@hotmail.com
317-501-9406

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Cindy Strietelmeier

Choir Director

Amanda Gainey
acvidal5@gmail.com
317-332-2053

Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray
daffodil327@hotmail.com
317-727-2777 317-727-1678

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

Laura Essex
lauralou85@yahoo.com
317-871-4717

Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe
sue.roe@sbcglobal.net
317-445-9333

Newsletter

M. Beth Symons
mbethsymons@aol.com
317-409-0300

To Be Added to the Email List

Tom Farrington
MessageToFairfield@att.net
317-839-3902

Caring Friends Committee

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