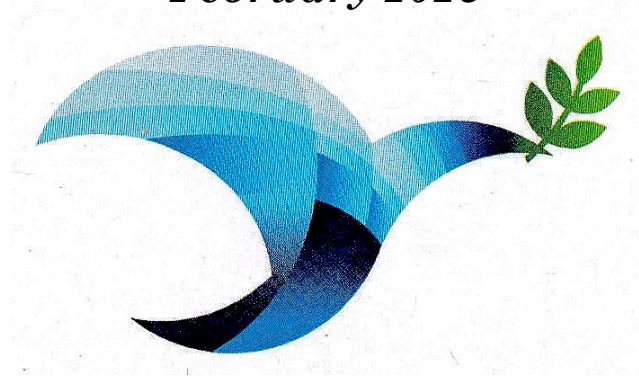


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

February 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 – February 2023

Dear Friends,

How did we so quickly arrive in February? Hope this newsletter finds all well, and I wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. I hope you will note the Carrie Newcomer music event on February 5. I am still collecting birthdays and anniversaries.

M. Beth Symons

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Let's Talk About Light

I was out for a walk this past week and noticed it was still light out when it had been dark two weeks before. We're gaining a minute of extra sunlight each evening, a trend I wholeheartedly support. I'm not sure how many more Indiana winters I can bear before moving to New Zealand, which enjoys 15 hours of warmth and sunlight when we're slugging it out with winter. I received an email several months ago from a man in New Zealand who had read one of my books and invited me to stop in for a visit if I were ever in Christchurch where he lived. He wasn't specific, so I don't know if by "visit" he meant an hour for a cup of coffee or three months with food and lodging. He seemed like a nice man, so I'm hoping for the latter.

St. John of the Cross wrote about the dark night of the soul and seemed to welcome it, which makes me think he didn't suffer from seasonal affective disorder like the rest of us. I prefer the Quaker emphasis on Light, having found it more amenable to my spirit. I especially appreciate it this time of year, when the earth is swaddled in darkness, resting, hibernating, preparing for the growth to come.

What makes the darkness bearable is what it portends, which is the flowering of fresh life. Think back to your history classes. Do you recall what eventually followed the Dark Ages? It was the Renaissance, the flowering of art, literature, science, and political philosophy. Darkness gives birth to Light. It is an inviolate truth.

We're celebrating light on February 5th with a visit by Carrie Newcomer during our meeting for worship. We want to be generous with those who are generous with us, so while admission is free, you will be given the opportunity to donate to help Carrie defray her expenses. Many musicians still haven't recovered from the financial losses they incurred during Covid, so let's do our part to keep live music alive! If you've been wanting to invite a friend to meeting for worship, February 5th would be a good Sunday.

A bit more about light: Did you know humans are bioluminescent, not unlike jellyfish and fireflies. However, the light we emit is too weak for our eyes to detect. Think of that for a moment. Every person we've ever known, even those we thought walked in darkness, actually glows. We just can't see it. Of course, there are other reasons we miss seeing the light in someone else. For centuries, white Americans saw precious little light in Black Americans. Too many men saw precious little light in women. Christians saw precious little light in Jews. And on and on.

Two queries: What keeps me from seeing the light in others? And what will I do about it?

Family Promise/Almost Home

Almost Home is now a 24/7 facility. In the past the residents would leave the home at 6 am and return at 6 pm. Those who do not yet have their jobs use resources and counseling at the Resource Center during the day. Their young children play in the basement of the center. That basement also has the laundry and bathing facilities used by other homeless patrons. The new design positions Family Promise staff and resources at Almost Home. The families will have their counselor and their children at their home.

Our next pledge week begins March 26th.

Thanks,
Theresa Minton

Ministry and Counsel

Happy New Year from Fairfield's Ministry and Counsel! Although most of the year of 2023 saw f/Friends in person at the Meetinghouse, cold weather kept people home on the last Sunday – Christmas! So our brief Christmas service was on Zoom, just as our first Sunday of the year had been.

The new year has started off with several special events. JB Symons brought a very though provoking message on New Year's Day, and the next Sunday, Dennis and Sandy Sasso, the first husband and wife rabbinical couple in Jewish history, spoke in Chat Room. The Sassos brought to Fairfield a view of what being Jewish is like in the present society as well as a look into the past for Jews. The recordings of both of these Sunday events may be viewed on Fairfield's website, <https://www.fairfieldfriends.org>.

February 5 will be another special day for Fairfield as Carrie Newcomer will be singing during Meeting for Worship. This will be a very special treat for us and an early arrival would be wise as many from the community may be joining us on that day. This service will be available on Zoom during the actual time.

Thank you to all of you who donated to the Christmas gift for Phil and Joan. We were not able to present the gift in person as we had hoped to do on Christmas Day, but it was presented to them before the end of the year.

Many thanks to Lynn Adams, our past Clerk of Ministry and Counsel for her heroic work in keeping us moving and united during the pandemic and for writing the bulk of this newsletter as I assume the role of Clerk.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

CLERK PLEASE

The following highlights are from the January 15 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Mike Chenoweth presented the December Financial Statement. December is the sixth month of the interim six-month budget period. Starting in this month of January and for the year 2023, the budget will be on a calendar basis. For the six-month period, expenses had been budgeted at \$82,011.94, but only \$70,912.19 was spent. On the revenue side, results weren't as favorable. Budget for worship services revenue was \$78,000.00 but came in at \$65,877.23 actual; however, fundraising brought in \$2,105.50 which had not been budgeted at all so that at the end of the six-month period revenue came in under budget roughly \$9,000.00 resulting in a net deficit of \$2,323.44. The average weekly offering in December was pretty high at \$2,823.69; however, this was only for three meetings as one was cancelled due to weather, so this hurt overall collections.
- Lynn Adams presented a report on behalf of Ministry and Counsel for the full year of 2022. Ann Tarvin is replacing Lynn as clerk of Ministry and Counsel as Lynn has served six years so has cycled off of the Committee. Fairfield Friends express many thanks to Lynn for her service and hard work.
- Jim McClung reported for Trustees that extreme winds during the past month damaged some flashing on the west side. A contract in the amount of \$120 was signed with Quality Solutions to make repairs. Two outside of budget expenditures for upkeep of the 2012 Meeting House were requested. Estimated expenses of \$3,000 and \$1,500, for inspection and repair of doors throughout the building and exterior lighting respectively, were approved. Jim also noted that Frank Gladden has asked that these two expenses, the indoor/outdoor door repair and the lighting expenses, be drawn from the Gladden Fund. No graves were sold in December and one interment was done. Parker Fence anticipates restoring the damaged fencing along Camby Road by the end of January. Work continues toward finding a sexton to replace Ralph Baker who will retire this summer.
- In previous meetings, Friends had considered how to spend excess reserve funds of the meeting. Lynne Durocher confirmed that the Finance Committee will be discussing but may need a couple of months to discern. She clarified that this effort may not have been in the list of priorities submitted via the Finance Committee report form, but the Committee will bring this forward as soon as possible.
- Randy Horton presented a minute of appreciation for Lynne Durocher: "Fairfield Friends express much gratitude to Lynne Durocher for her service as Recording Clerk for the past six years. In that role she provided valuable oversight to the Meeting in general, and the Presiding Clerks in particular. Many thanks to you Lynne." This minute was approved.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be February 19.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

January 15, 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 January 12 edition.

Know a Tree by Its Fruits

KWON JEONG-SAENG

Can it be right to reject all aspects of a culture that has shaped our souls for tens of thousands of years? God is present even without Christianity; he doesn't need churchgoers in order to work. Whether or not a country is Christian, God reigns. He has ruled the universe for countless ages. The missionaries think that God depends on them and their preaching – that he trails after them, staying only where they have been. But long before Christianity was preached, God watched over the whole world. People may not have known him with their minds, but their hearts could feel him.

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.

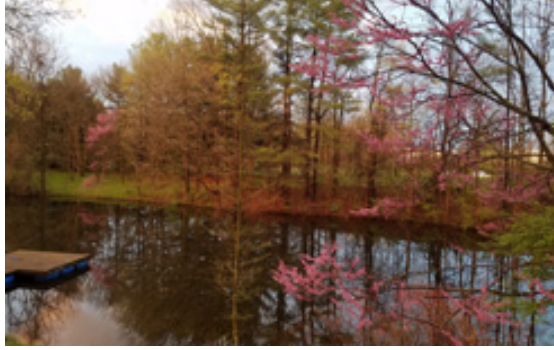
Randy Horton, Presiding Clerk

February Birthdays

Connor 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
Kathy Lueck	February 18
Colton McClure	February 24

February Anniversaries

Ron and Kay Frye	February 14
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On Bethel Pond

by Don Adams

Thoreau self discovered by his Walden
Fonda and Hepburn joy aged their Golden
For each their living ever beholden
To the beauty of a Pond

As with me when I silently gaze
At reflections of life and a living way
While trees gently breezed coaxed wave
At beauty on my Bethel Pond

Ducks inline gliding, turtles sunning
Kingfisher raucous calling
Rain drops and ripples running
On beauty of my Bethel Pond

Come rest with me enrich my time
Imbibe some elderberry wine
Seeking our inner peace sublime
Enjoying beauty on my Bethel Pond

For rest we must some unknown day
The reaper never held at bay
And then my friend my soul will play
In beauty of my Bethel Pond

February 2023 Calendar

February 1	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
February 2	Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8:00pm
February 5	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship with Carrie Newcomer 10:30-11:30am
February 8	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
February 11	Peace and Social Justice 9:30-10:30am Green Team 10-11:00am
February 12	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
February 14	Stewardship Committee 2:30-3:30pm
February 15	NA Support Group
February 16	Finance Committee 9:30-10:30am
February 19	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 7-8:00pm
February 22	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
February 26	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am

Holding in the Light List

Randy Coffin

Rose Camic (Anita's mother)

Josephus Edmudson's Family (Lee and Ann's son)

Helen Symons (JB's mom)

Patty Bowling

Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)

Finley (Peanut) Willams (Cathy Lucas's dad)

Margaret Tutewiler-Cox

Kelly Davis (Kyle & Leslie (Blacketer) Rhoden's friend)

Vaughn Martin (Terry King's father)

Ann Denney and daughter, Betsey (Herb's mom and sister)

Tina (Mary Dooley's niece)

Mike Roland (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)

Don Edmundson (Lee's brother)

Ron and Kay Frye

Jack & Mary Lou (Mary Dooley's friend)

Neighborhood Bible Church

Clark family (Mary Dooley's friends)

Mike (Tara Stewart's friend)

Mary Denbo (Terry's mom)

Bill and Jo Maris (Stacey Denney's parents)

Deanna Waltz (Zoom friend)

Josh, Julie and Wesley (Kelsey Gulley's brother)

Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy's sister)

Margo Lawson

Martha Pokorny (Cliff Prentice's friend's wife)

Lauren Chinn (Larry Corray's daughter)

Ruth Turner (the late Charlie and Elsie Carter's daughter)

Daryl T. Brown

Julie Kindle

Beth Sotkiewicz

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

Christ 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:

Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitlmeier's parents)

Charles and Leslieann Lee

Abdul Sulaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family

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

Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

David and Jennifer Hodge

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

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Choir Director

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

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Caring Friends Committee

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United Society of Friends Women

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To Be Added to the Email List

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Membership Coordinators

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

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Jimmy McClung
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765-346-8848

Newsletter

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

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