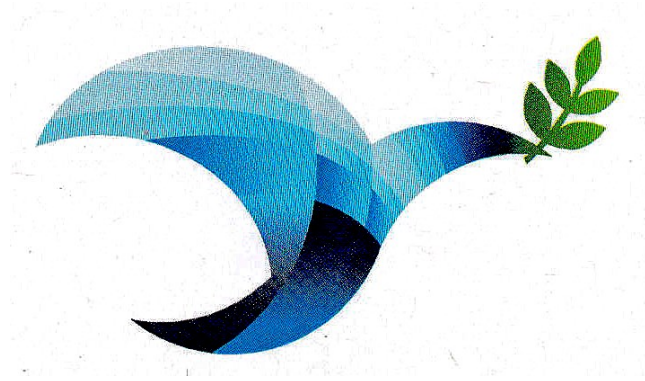


# THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

*January 2021*



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



P.O. Box 45 · 10441 East County Road 700 South · Camby, Indiana 46113

(317) 856-3121 · [www.FairfieldFriends.org](http://www.FairfieldFriends.org)

**THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY**

*Here's to 2021!!*

I'm creeping up on my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, which officially marks my entrance into geezerhood. I know I'm supposed to say I don't feel like a geezer, but that would be untrue. I feel like one of those people you read about in the newspaper who just turned 115 and a reporter visited them to take their picture, then asked them the secret to their longevity and all the old person wanted was for everyone to leave them alone so they could watch Wheel of Fortune and take a nap.

The old person's secret to longevity is always the same. They claim never to have smoked, vouch for the benefits of exercise, caution against red meat, then mention they believe in God. I've never smoked a cigarette, end each day with a vigorous two-mile walk, seldom eat red meat, and have been a pastor for 36 years, but the way I feel now I'll be lucky to see 65. If a newspaper reporter wants to ask me the secret to longevity, they better do it soon, while I can still construct a coherent sentence.

I'm not complaining, mind you. I've often felt like an old man trapped in a younger man's body. When I was 10 years-old, my idea of a perfect day was sitting on a bench in front of our town's Rexall and complaining about teenagers. At the age of 12, I saved up my money for a pair of suspenders. So to be 60, to be an official geezer, is a joy beyond compare. I've waited my whole life for this.

Growing up, I was envious of people who'd lived through the Great Depression and World War II, which trumped every catastrophe my generation experienced, except perhaps disco and Captain and Tennille. But having survived 2020, I can now tell young people they don't know the meaning of hardship. I've been practicing what I'll say the next time I hear a kid complain about something.

"You think you got it bad. I remember when there wasn't any toilet paper and you had to drive to the Wal-Mart to use the biffy." (They won't know what a biffy is, so I'll have to explain that, too.)

"You think you got it bad. I remember people touching germy doorknobs and falling over dead." (That never happened, but when complaining about hardship, one shouldn't be constrained by truth.)

The youngster will look at me with newfound respect, marveling at the adversity I've endured.

I'm seven years away from collecting Social Security, but intend to keep working until I die, so I can be that one old guy in the office who disparages every new idea, snorting in contempt at every advancement.

"Electricity? Why when I started working here, we didn't even have electricity. We did everything by hand. We were men back then."

I'm the only person our Quaker meeting employs, so I'll be talking to myself, but geezers do that all the time anyway.

Here's hoping 2021 will be a better year than 2020. It won't take much.

**USFW**

**Christmas Project 2020**  
**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You**

For the past several years, Fairfield has collected donations of hats and gloves at Christmas for the children who attend Patricksburg Elementary School in Owen County IN. Due to pandemic restrictions this year, we had to do it a little differently than usual. Rather than everyone doing their own shopping, we asked for monetary donations so we could order all items in bulk and have only one person doing the sorting.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and attenders, over 120 hats and pairs of gloves as well as a candy cane and a Christmas pencil were delivered to the school by two USFW (Women's Group) members. We also have money left over and are working with the school to decide how best to use it.

Owen County is one of the poorest counties in Indiana with one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools with Patricksburg Elementary being in the poorest area of the county. If you would like to know more about the school, you can Like their FaceBook page.



We are still collecting canceled stamps for Right Sharing of World Resources. Please hang on to them until we are together again and they will be taken to First Friends. They are trimming the stamps and sending them to where they need to go. There is still a box for them under the mailbox table. You may also put them in Carol Cordray's mailbox. We are also still saving pop tops. Please, if you can, continue collecting these things and they will be taken care of as soon as Meeting starts again.

**Reminder of help available for those who are struggling**

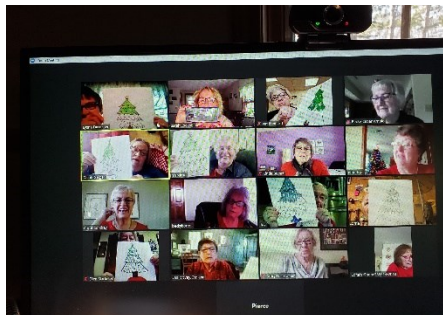
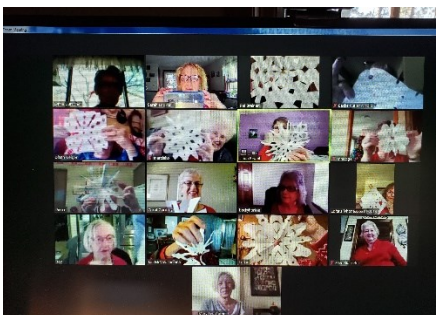
Township Trustees for insulin and other needs; Eli Lilly grants with doctors' referral; Call 211 for help with rent, utilities, and those who have COVID; Call Stability Builders Network (SBN) in Plainfield at 317-296-3742. SBN can assist with rent, utilities, food delivery, supplies, transportation, etc. Even though they are housed in Hendricks County they can direct folks to help in their area.

**USFW (Cont'd)****Women's Group (USFW) 2020 Christmas Party**

Due to pandemic restrictions this year, we could not have our annual night out for dinner with husbands and other guests. Instead on December 13, 2020, the Fairfield USFW group held their first ever virtual Christmas party.

We shared stories about our favorite Christmas ornament, cut out snowflakes, drew Christmas trees following instructions for 8-year olds on Art for Kids, and listened to readings from the annual Christmas Eve service. The best part of meeting on Zoom was that we were able to enjoy fellowship with not only our own members but with women from Iowa, North Carolina and South Carolina as well as from two other local meetings in Indiana.\*

\*A few months ago we started reaching out to USFW members across Western Yearly Meeting who had not been meeting due to the pandemic. This then extended to other yearly meetings and we have had guests at every meeting since. It is a great way to share experiences and make new friends.

**Family Promise News**

It is an emotional struggle to survive this epidemic. While we stay in our homes, our homeless families are being provided housing in hotel rooms with our support. Isolation is part of our experience. Isolation in a hotel room with children is part of theirs. We may be adapting to how we provide support, but the final goal remains. The families still must work through the training in this dynamically changing economic time.

We end the 2020 schedule with our pledge week that begins December 27th. For the 2021 calendar year we have the following weeks: starting March 21st, June 27th, September 26th, and December 26th. Many thanks to everyone for our Family Promise program.

**COVID-19 GROUP**

Fairfield Friends Ministry and Council formed an ad hoc committee called Covid-19 Group to discuss the possibility of resuming Meeting for Worship outdoors this summer. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to infect people throughout Indiana. The committee has determined that we cannot safely meet together face-to-face. If you have any questions or concerns for this committee, please contact Bill Smith at [billsmith49@earthlink.net](mailto:billsmith49@earthlink.net) or (317)413-9869. This committee will continue to meet in the hope that this pandemic will lessen.

Fairfield Friends Meeting will continue to have ZOOM Meeting for Worship and will publish the ZOOM link on Facebook and by email. In addition, Lee Edmundson will be placing the ZOOM link on the Fairfield Friends website weekly.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**REPORT ON CULTIVATING GENEROUS CONGREGATIONS**

During January Monthly Meeting (Jan 10) a report will be presented on the findings obtained from the recent Everence class attended by Lynne Durocher, Deborah Hunt, and Mike Furnish. The 12-week course was designed to provide some of the current best practices in how religious groups approach fundraising.

Here is an example of the kind of information used in the class to stimulate thoughts and create discussion in a congregation.

**TWO CONGREGATIONS**

*Which one are we?*

**Pay-the-Bills**

*Congregation frames religious giving in mostly unspiritual terms as necessary to keep the doors open and meet the budget.*

- Money is scarce.
- We have bills to pay if we are to survive.
- Focus is internal and insular.
- You must do your fair share.

**Share-the-Vision**

*Congregation tends to connect and integrate money and spirituality.*

- We may not be rich, but we have more than enough.
- We can dare to dream and grow in faith.
- Focus is external and global.
- Partner and grow in faith with us.

The January 10 presentation will be followed by a written report that will be distributed to everyone in the Meeting. The report will include some proposals for some new ways for Fairfield to do business.

**NEWS ABOUT FRIENDS**

**THOSE THAT WE SHOULD HOLD IN THE LIGHT**

David Hodge	Cindy Hurst	Jim Scalf	Kim Brown
Joyce Gant	Fairfield Teachers	Constance Ward	Ron and Kaye Frye
Chris Gautier	Firefighters in West	Norm Connell	The Lord's Pantry
Dan Burger	Sulaiman Family	Clara McClure	Phil and Marcia Silvers
Matthias Beier	Ginny & Robert Hayes-Bennett		David & Bobbi Garber
Family Promise	Cunot Feeding Program	Sam Gulley	Joe & Sylvia Leverett
Margo Lawson's Grandson Gage		Margo Lawson	Linda Bryant
Fairfield Healthcare Workers			

New Friends	Friends Lost
Jeff and Laura Gabbard became members of the Meeting.	

**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES**

January
Leslieann Lee (01/04)
Tom & Marjorie Gates (01/07)
Kyle Rhoden (01/08)
Larry Cordray (01/09)
Cathy Lucas (01/09)
Charles Barker (01/10)
Carl Lucas (01/12)
Brett & Ashley Hesson (01/16)
Andy & Christine Porter (01/18)
Charles Lee (01/19)
Tim Settles (01/20)
Georgianna Baker (01/21)
Chad Smith (01/23)
Jake Gabbard (01/28)
Stacey Denny (01/29)
Donald & Carol Clark (01/29)
Cindy Strietelmeier (01/29)
Mike & Hillary Mazur (01/30)
Laura Gabbard (01/31)

February
Conner McClure (02/03)
Mary Swift (02/03)
Philip Gulley (02/05)
Jennifer Silvers (02/05)
Devin Leverett (02/07)
Mark Strietelmeier (02/11)
Mark & Robin Lawrence (02/11)
Bob & Sandra Horner (02/12)
Laura Essex (02/14)
Rebecca Furnish (02/14)
Ron & Kay Frye (02/14)
Joni Leverett (02/18)
Colton McClure (02/24)

**MEETING CONTACTS**

<b><u>Pastor:</u></b> <b>Phil Gulley</b> Philip@philipgulley.com	317-446-4923
<b><u>Presiding Clerk of the Meeting:</u></b> <b>Lee Edmundson</b> tarvedmun@yahoo.com	317-839-1223
<b><u>Recording Clerk:</u></b> <b>Lynne Durocher</b> Ld091449@yahoo.com	317-888-7242
<b><u>Treasurers:</u></b> <b>Mike Chenoweth</b> mocnenoweth@gmail.com	317-445-0387
<b>Karen Heald</b> healdrobt@att.net	317-696-6133
<b><u>Membership Coordinators:</u></b> <b>Larry &amp; Carol Cordray</b> daffodil327@hotmail.com	317-372-2777 317-372-1678
<b><u>Bulletin and Newsletter (info due by 20<sup>th</sup> of month):</u></b> <b>Tom Farrington</b> thomasfarrington1946@gmail.com	317-839-3902
<b><u>United Society of Friends Women:</u></b> <b>Sarah Lookabill</b> slookabill@att.net	317-839-4712
<b><u>Fairfield Men's Fellowship:</u></b> <b>Ralph Baker</b> baker7298@sbcglobal.net	317-831-3526
<b><u>Outreach Committee:</u></b> <b>Stacey Denny</b> hdenny123@att.net	317-313-1171
<b><u>Caring Friends Committee:</u></b> <b>Becky McClung</b> rgmclung@gmail.com	317-690-0160

**MEETING CONTACTS (Cont'd)**

<b><u>To Be Added to the Email List:</u></b> <b>Tom Farrington</b> thomasfarrington1946@gmail.com	317-839-3902
<b>J. B. Symons</b> jb@leadtogreat.com	317-409-3945
<b><u>Nursery (under age 3):</u></b> <b>Sue Roe</b> Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net	317-445-9333
<b><u>Children's Meeting (age 3—3<sup>rd</sup> grade):</u></b> <b>Ralph &amp; Gan Baker</b> baker7298@sbcglobal.net	317-831-3526
<b><u>Fantastix Friends 4<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade):</u></b> <b>Tara Stewart</b> Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com	317-627-8964
<b><u>Young Friends (9<sup>th</sup> grade—college):</u></b> <b>Jimmy McClung</b> moviemanjim@gmail.com	765-346-8848
<b><u>Restorative Connection Counseling</u></b> <b>Laura Jay-Ballinger, M.A., LMHC</b> restorative.connection.indy@gmail.com	317-902-7327