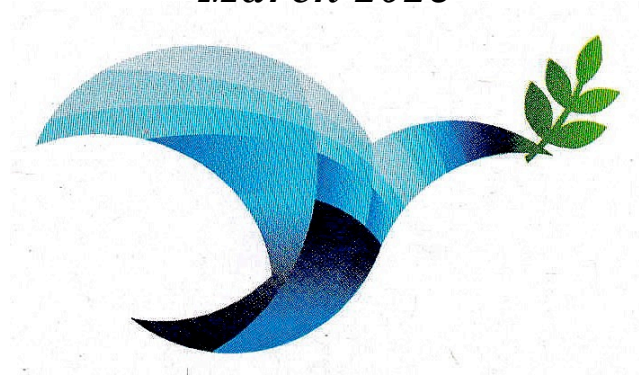


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

March 2023



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.o

The Fairfield Friend – March 2023

Dear Friends--Hope this newsletter finds all well. What a pleasant February we had, no deep piles of snow or sub-zero temperatures. Carrie Newcomer was certainly a bright spot in the month. Can you now sense spring rounding a corner? M. Beth Symons

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley *How We Measure Health*

Once a year, I go to my doctor for a physical. He's been my doctor since I moved to Danville 23 years ago, and we've become close. Our visits begin with a conversation, reporting on our families. I've long suspected our conversation is his initial means of diagnosis. I'm on an antidepressant, but rather than coming right and asking me how I'm feeling, he circles the subject, inquiring about my key relationships, before moving on to more tangible procedures—measuring my blood pressure, heart rate, testing my glucose level, drawing blood to check my organ function, whacking my knees with his rubber hammer. Like any good doctor, he's methodical and never takes my word for it that I'm feeling fine, knowing our Hoosier tendency to tell our doctors we never felt better even as a bone is poking through our skin from a car wreck the week before.

The yearly meeting is sponsoring a pastor's retreat this May that I'll be attending, the first time in years. Every family has a crazy uncle that thinks Elvis is alive and Donald Trump is still the president. For years, our yearly meeting had a surplus of people like that, some of whom were pastors, so it was easier to stay home. Then some died, and others moved, and even though our yearly meeting has only half the local congregations it once did, it feels so much healthier, thanks in large part to Sarah Lookabill, who clerked our yearly meeting until this past July, and Shawn McConaughey, our superintendent, who calls out the best in us, not the worst.

If I were diagnosing the condition of our yearly meeting, I would look at the decline in numbers since 1950 and be alarmed. I'd advise the patient to write their will. But there are other diagnostic tools I would have to consider. I would want to know whether the people in the yearly meeting worked well together, whether they loved one another, whether they engaged the wider world and worked to improve it, whether those in the yearly meeting experienced joy and healing and wholeness. By those measures, I'd feel positive about our yearly meeting's health.

It turns out the numerical challenges faced by our yearly meeting is emblematic of Christianity in the United States these days. Post-Covid church attendance has dropped precipitously. Cultural patterns like weekend-intensive youth sports, a shift in generational priorities, and an overall decline in civic and sacred engagement have walloped the church, including our yearly meeting, and even Fairfield.

At one time, the retention rate of Quakerism among families was extraordinarily high. If one were born into a Quaker family, the chances were good one would remain one for life, participating in the community. But times have changed, except for the Amish, who enjoy the highest retention rate of any Christian faith, though even that is waning. You know the old saying, "Once you've seen the city..." If we want to be in a religion that retains most of its childhood members, we should have been Hindus, who keep 84% of their folks on board from cradle to grave.

But even amidst this cultural tsunami that has remade our sacred shoreline, one thing remains true. Deep down in all of us is a desire to love and be loved. When I first became a Quaker, I did so because I wanted to go to heaven. When I first became a Quaker pastor, I did so because I wanted to take others to heaven with me. Over the years, I've come to realize heaven was here all along. I've found it in my friendships in our meeting. I've found it in our laughter, in our mutual work, and even in our grief. I've found it when Anne Gautier wanted to help poor babies and we donated so much it brought tears to Anne's eyes. And now I'm glimpsing heaven in our yearly meeting. Who'd think it?

If you know someone who lacks what we have in abundance, invite them to be with us. There is nothing, not one thing, wrong with any of us that can't be solved with loving, supportive community, which is why my doctor asks me, once a year, "How's your family? How are your friends?"

Family Promise Support Week

March 26th 2023 begins our Fairfield Friends Family Promise support week. Almost Home is now staffed 24/7, and four of the current families will likely sign leases and move out before our week. I'll be sure to announce any new developments as our time approaches. Thank you so much for keeping this program in your hearts.

Theresa Minton

CLERK PLEASE

The following highlights are from the February 19 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Mike Chenoweth presented the January Financial Statement. January was a good month in all regards. The only unusual expense was for building services, and those were for annual maintenance of the alarm system. Total expense was far less than the budgeted \$12K per month. Revenue was exceptionally high, a natural occurrence for January due to some contributors pre-paying for the year. Average weekly offering was not very different from January last year. This very good month left us with a reserve funds balance about \$30K higher than our goal.
- Ann Tarvin reported on behalf of Ministry and Counsel. M&C is adding a brief invitation to children's church on the web site so that visitors will know we provide it, and is also considering ways to incorporate our children in the adult worship service. They will soon conduct a pre-COVID style annual survey regarding member and attender desires for worship service and interest in participation. They also requested that Fairfield establish an annual financial contribution to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). This is the only body involved with all branches of Quakers that facilitates communication between all branches. Peace & Social Justice has handled this in the past, but M&C feels it should be a broader Fairfield concern. The recommendation was approved at a level of \$100 annually.
- Jim McClung reported for Trustees that there is no news regarding the 1892 Meeting House, but we are close to March, which is when Plainfield has suggested they would be ready with plans for the intersection. Hardware has been procured for conversion of the parking lot to LED lighting, Jim is waiting for good weather to perform the work himself. Following inspection of the exterior doors by a contractor, parts were replaced on five of the doors so that they now close and lock as they should. Landscaping has established May 6 as the date for spring cleanup. Flashing on the west side of the building has been repaired. Efforts continue to find a replacement for Ralph Baker, who has stated his desire to move away from his responsibility for the cemetery by the end of June.
- In previous meetings, Friends had considered how to spend funds that exceed our target reserve. Lynne Durocher reported that the Finance Committee should be prepared with recommendations to report at the March Monthly Meeting.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be March 19.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

February 19, 2023

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 February 16 edition.

Do It for Love

BROTHER LAWRENCE

There is nothing in the world as delightful as a continual walk with God. Only those who have experienced it can comprehend it. And yet I do not recommend that you seek it solely because it is so enjoyable. Do it because of love, and because it is what God wants. If I were a preacher, the one thing that I would preach about more than anything else is the practice of the presence of God.

Source: *The Practice of the Presence of God*

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

Ministry and Council

February 2023

February was pre-spring cleaning month, in that we discussed several bits of outstanding business.

First, we had noticed that there was nothing on our website about Children's Church so Jeff Gabbard will put a short invitation there so people visiting the site will know that we offer this service. We are also still refining the best way to incorporate children into the adult worship. We may try one or two more variations until we settle on what seems to work most smoothly. Be prepared for a few changes in the bulletin as we explore this issue.

At the last Monthly Meeting it was mentioned that part of the survey we took last year had never been reported to the Meeting. Much of the survey was concerned with meeting during Covid and the transition to live gatherings. Now that we are past that mark, we will be taking a look at the more general ones about what keeps people interested and active at Fairfield.

We are also working with our regular Zoom hosts to be sure any “Hold in the Light” requests from Zoom chat are conveyed to the Caring Friends.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

Chords of Love Delivery – December 28, 2022

The Outreach Committee of Fairfield Friends had a Christmas project of collecting items for the *Chords of Love* charity in Brownsburg, Indiana. This charity collects items for low-income cancer patients, disabled and chronically ill people, as well as senior citizens. Becca Campbell, who is a cancer patient herself, leads the organization. When her own parents were undergoing cancer treatments, Becca began this charity to make sure that similar cancer patients don't have to worry about having enough food to eat or items they need.

The collection for this project took several weeks. Cindy Hurst, Steve Kirchhoff, and Nita Kirchhoff delivered all the collected items on December 28, 2022. Here is an inventory of the items donated:

canned goods – 11 sacks
crackers/cereal/teabags – 4 boxes or bags
toilet paper – 5 sacks plus one large package
paper towels – 16 packs and 2 boxes
sweatshirts – 1 bag
socks – 7 packages of men's socks and 2 bags of women's socks
robes – 2
detergent/dish soap – 8 large bottles and several sacks
deodorant/soap – 2 bags
adult diapers/pads – 1 large box
toilet articles (toothbrushes, etc) – several sacks

Cindy Hurst/Steve Kirchhoff

Here are pictures of one car's donation:



Green Team News

We may not be sure when spring is arriving this year with such a mild winter, but I do have daffodils poking through the dirt by 6 inches or more! This is definitely not typical for February, yet we can't help but hope for an early spring and think about planning our gardens. I am sharing below an article by Jim Kessler that was published in the Quaker Earth Care Witness December 2022. He talks about how critical our choices of native plants are for our wildlife, birds, butterflies and bees. Some of our Green Team members started planting a pollinator garden on the southside of our Meeting last fall. We hope you will join us as we enjoy watching it grow, bloom and support our native eco-system.

- Ellen Blacketer

By Jim Kessler:

Native plants are adapted to the local area and its climate. Unfortunately, many of our beautiful non-native garden flowers provide little or no food for honeybees, native pollinators, songbirds, and other wildlife. Non-native plants have the potential to become invasive species, weeds that spread rapidly and often crowd out native species. Native wildflowers and grasses are very beautiful, produce a wide variety of shapes, colors, and bloom times. Native plants are important because they:

Reduce Maintenance. Local native plants need no fertilization, no pesticides, and little or no watering once they are established, so they reduce maintenance costs. Native plant gardens do require weeding and some maintenance.

Increase Critical Wildlife Habitat. Loss of plant habitat is one cause of local extinctions of native wildlife. Since urban development and agriculture have removed a large percentage of native plant populations from our North American landscape, many pollinators, songbirds, and other native wildlife populations are rapidly declining. The World Wildlife Fund's 2020 Living Earth Index shows an average 68% decrease in monitored populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish between 1970 and 2016. Many wildlife species will become extinct without the restoration of native plant populations that provide their food and shelter. Planting native trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses in yards, on acreages and farms, on corporate property, and in public spaces can reverse this decline.

Help our Songbirds. Migrating songbird populations have declined 1% annually during the last 50 years. Songbirds feed their young insect larvae which are found mostly on native plants. The result of declining native plant populations from the landscape is that many baby birds starve. Planting natives in urban yards and rain gardens increases songbird populations.

Save Monarch Butterflies. Monarch butterfly populations have been declining very rapidly, in part due to the loss of milkweed populations, though recent conservation efforts seem to be helping. Some hopeful news: 250,000 monarchs landed along North America's Pacific Coast this winter, the highest numbers since 2016, according to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Planting local native milkweed species in gardens and other residential landscapes is crucial to the survival of monarch butterflies.

Increase Vital Honeybee and Native Pollinator Populations. The current pollinator crisis is important to everyone. One of every three bites that we eat requires insect pollination. 80% of our plants cannot produce seeds without insect pollination and would become extinct without pollinators. Honeybees, native bees, and other native pollinators are declining because there are not enough native wildflowers to supply the nectar they need to stay healthy. Widely used neonicotinoid pesticides are insect nerve toxins that are especially deadly to bees and other pollinators. The solution to our pollinator crisis is to plant lots of local native wildflowers and to keep them free of pesticides. Native plantings also increase populations of other beneficial insects that feed on insect pests in our yards and gardens.

Gardeners can make a significant difference for honeybees, native pollinators like the monarch butterfly, songbirds, and other wildlife populations by planting natives in yards and acreages. Your native plant garden or larger native planting can be part of that difference.

Jim Kessler is a member of Grinnell Friends Church (Iowa Yearly Meeting –FUM) and teaches Environmental Biology at Iowa Valley Community College–Grinnell.

March Birthdays

Gordon Mork	March 01
David Siemantel	March 01
Michelle Sutton	March 03
Walter Madden-Warner	March 04
Amanda Gainey	March 05
Robby Stevens	March 09
Larry Chamness	March 12
Dale Gladden	March 13
Barbara Heavlin	March 16
Michael Cunningham	March 17
April Stevens	March 17
Anita Camic	March 18
Patti Swift	March 18
Debbie Draper	March 21
Don Adams	March 23
Carolyn Slaughter	March 24
Dara Smith	March 25
Carol Cordray	March 27
Matt Hamm	March 29
Chad Duran	March 30
Ellen Blacketer	March 31

March Anniversaries

Larry and Carol Cordray March 21

Caring Friends Committee

Caring Friends committee is requesting that all members / attenders send us photos of yourself and your families (if applicable). We would really like to update the photo board at the Meeting House ASAP. Much has changed since pre-pandemic times.

Please **email digital photos to Becky McClung** - rgmccclung@gmail.com.

Also, don't hesitate to call or text Becky 317-690-0160 or Joan Gulley 317-709-8376 if you need help getting a photo submitted, or have questions about the project otherwise.

Thank you in advance,
Becky and Joan

March 2023 Calendar

March 01	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 02	Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8:00pm
March 05	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
March 08	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 11	Peace and Social Justice 9:30-10:30am Green Team 10:30-11:30am
March 12	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
March 14	Stewardship Committee 2:00-3:00pm
March 15	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 16	Finance Committee 7-8:00pm
March 19	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 7-8:00pm
March 22	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 26	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
March 29	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm

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)

Clark family (Mary Dooley's friends)

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

Mary Denbo (Terry's mom)

Bill and Jo Maris (Stacey Denney's parents)

Deanna Waltz (Zoom friend)

Neighborhood Bible Church

Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy's sister)

Chris Gautier

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

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

Margo Lawson

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

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

Choir Director

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net
317-839-9682

Outreach Committee

Stacey Denny
hdenny123@att.net
317-313-1171

Caring Friends Committee

Becky McClung
rgmclung@gmail.com
317-690-0160

United Society of Friends Women

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

To Be Added to the Email List

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

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

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

Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray
daffodil327@hotmail.com
317-372-2777
317-372-1678

Nursery (under age 3)

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

Bulletin

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

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

Tara Stewart
Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com
317-627-8964
Jimmy McClung
moviemanjm@gmail.com
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