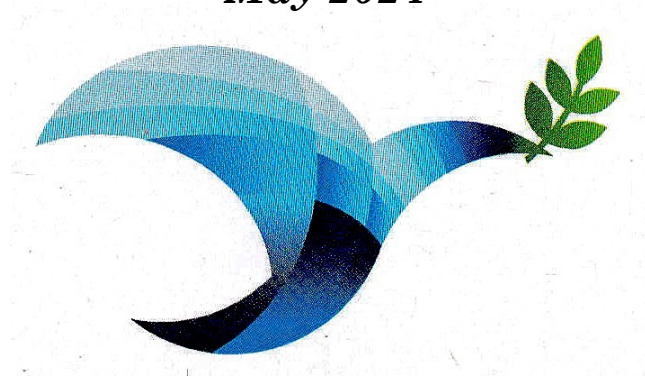


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

May 2024



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.

The Fairfield Friend –May 2024

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Deassimilating

In the life of a child, the finest day must be that first spring day it is warm enough to run barefoot in the grass. I'm not sure when that joy lessens. I just know that one year we don't do it, we keep our shoes on, and the next thing you know we're working full-time and paying bills. If I had to live my life over, I would make sure to run barefoot every spring.

I thought of this because the other day Madeline and her friend, Addie, were playing in our side yard, shoeless, running in circles, kicking up their feet like newborn colts. Once the shoes come off, the sprinkler is never far behind, and sure enough, they asked if I could hook up the sprinkler to the garden hose so they could run through the spray. I had stored the hose in the garage over winter, so retrieved it, stretched it out straight so it could soften in the sun, then connected one end to the spigot and the other to the sprinkler. After daffodils, the sure sign of spring is hooking up your garden hose.

Then we played *Simon Says*. I was Simon and sent the girls running and hopping around the yard, through the sprinkler, chasing the dog, anything I could think of to wear them out, since Madeline was spending the night at our house, and I wanted her to sleep.

It's a peculiar oddity of human nature how often games mimic life, in this instance the tendency of some folks to obey mindless orders if the one giving them uses the approved language. Simon says, "Fear strangers." Simon says, "Hate taxes." Simon says, "Abuse people of color, women, and the poor." Of course, not everyone does what Simon says, but more do than ought to, which boggles the mind.

We have the same problem in religion. Let a man stand in a pulpit waving a Bible, replacing the words "Simon says" with the words, "The Bible says," and a church full of folks will hurry to do his bidding, no matter how loathsome or sordid his commands.

When I was playing *Simon Says* with Madeline and Addie, I said, "Simon says, put your face on the sprinkler."

Both girls are bright and confident, and I suspected they wouldn't obey a nonsensical order, and they didn't.

Madeline said, "We're not stupid."

"You go first," Addie said to me.

This world would be a whole lot better if the customary response to irrational demands were, "We're not stupid." and "You go first."

It occurs to me that about the same time we stop running barefoot, something even better takes its place, and that is our capacity to think for ourselves. We don't need an external Simon directing our lives, we have an internal Simon, our very own Simon, leading and guiding us, which means we can no longer blame others for our poor decisions, but must assume and accept responsibility for ourselves, a sure sign of maturity.

I've made some dumb decisions in my life, but none so dumb they couldn't eventually be corrected. And I'd rather make my own dumb decisions than let someone else decide for me. When we give another person the power to decide for us, we'll soon give them the power to think for us, then speak for us, then act for us, which never ends well. Power is voracious, especially abusive power, and is always looking for one more soul to devour.

I heard a lovely word the other day I'd never heard before—deassimilate. Don't conform. Don't blend in. Don't follow mindless orders. Listen to your inner Simon. Stand up and stand out. Deassimilate.

CLERK PLEASE

May 2024

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

- In closing his Pastor's report, Phil states that he remains excited and energized by his work and friendships at Fairfield, and looks forward to the next few years as we approach our 200th anniversary.
- Mike Chenoweth presented the March Financial Statement. March was an expensive month due to the payment of WYM and FUM assessments approaching \$5,000. These resulted in a deficit for the month of a little over \$4,000. Average Weekly Offering in March was \$2,232 which brought the Year-to-Date Average to \$3,298, compared to \$4,120 this time last year. The \$4,000 deficit for the month resulted in reserves of \$126,470, roughly \$18,500 more than the target reserve. There were no changes in restricted fund balances. It was agreed that we remain financially healthy.
- Ann Tarvin presented a brief report for Ministry and Counsel. M&C will gather for an in-person retreat on Saturday May 4. We should all mark our calendars for the ice cream social on June 2. Ann also read the draft version of the State of Society prepared for reporting to Western Yearly Meeting (WYM). After some discussion and a minor bit of editing the report was approved. Consensus was that the document was very well written and should be shared with the Fairfield community. Plans are to read it during Meeting for Worship in the near future.
- Bill Smith presented the Property Trustees report. A plaque for the Lick Branch portion of the cemetery will be installed soon. Trustees are investigating having a class or classes to train interested Fairfield Friends on use of the AED in cardiac arrest, the Lifevac Choking Rescue Device, and CPR. Steve Blacketer has reached out to Plainfield Fire and Rescue for their assistance with this project. A pole installer has been purchased and used to replace 15 flood lights with LED floods in the Meeting Room. A contract for trash removal will be signed within the next week with WM for trash and recycling removal. The cost will be \$35.20 monthly for trash removal every week and \$11.00 for recycling removal every other week. With the help of Mike Goss, a Hold Harmless Agreement form has been created and approved for any outside use of our property or Meeting House. A Letter of Intent regarding the 1892 Meeting House and plans for a Roundabout at the corner of Camby Road and CR 1050 East was approved by the Town of Plainfield Board and presented for signature by the Clerk of Trustees. Bill Smith signed the Letter of Intent.
- On behalf of Christian Education, Laura Essex requested assistance registering Fairfield for the purpose of obtaining background checks for Friends working with children. Randy Horton will work with Ministry Defender Solutions to obtain this important capability.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be Sunday April 21 at the Meetinghouse.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

April 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 January 16, 2023 edition.

Stick with Love

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Excerpts from King's speech "Where Do We Go From Here?" delivered at the 11th Annual SCLC Convention, Atlanta, Georgia, August 16, 1967.

I'm concerned about a better world. I'm concerned about justice; I'm concerned about brotherhood; I'm concerned about truth. And when one is concerned about that, he can never advocate violence. Darkness cannot put out darkness; only light can do that.

And I say to you, I have also decided to stick with love, for I know that love is ultimately the only answer to mankind's problems. And I'm going to talk about it everywhere I go. I know it isn't popular to talk about it in some circles today. And I'm not talking about emotional bosh when I talk about love; I'm talking about a strong, demanding love. For I have seen too much hate, and I say to myself that hate is too great a burden to bear. I have decided to love. If you are seeking the highest good, I think you can find it through love. And the beautiful thing is that we aren't moving wrong when we do it, because John was right, God is love. He who hates does not know God, but he who loves has the key that unlocks the door to the meaning of ultimate reality....

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 Transformation

They do not plan to become homeless. Living close to the financial edge, paycheck to paycheck, followed by a toppling event, causes a series of overwhelming circumstances, a grasp for survival. They could not prevent the downward slide that eliminated their options. The feelings of lack of control are intense.

That was how the moms look when they first arrived in the shelter. Watch those moms over the next few weeks and the transformation becomes clear. They go through a full range of emotions, including anger, fear, and confusion followed by hope, confidence, and strength. Watching the transformation is like watching a person bloom. We supported the environment for their growth.

Theresa Minton

Social Justice News from the Peace and Social Justice Committee

Please check out three current exhibits at the **Indiana History Center on West Street Downtown** <https://indianahistory.org/events> There is free parking with paid admissions and there are senior and student discounts.

RESIST - Through August 2, 2024

This exhibit shows how Notre Dame students stood up to the KKK. In the 1920's the KKK dominated many governmental units in Indiana. The students protest and a murder trial against the leader of the KKK brought the official activities of the Klan to a halt in IN,

The Past is our Present - Protest - Through October 25, 2024

This exhibit explores the use of various kinds of protests throughout IN history as oppressed groups protested to have recognition of their rights.

Eva Kor from Auschwitz to Indiana - Through August 3, 2024

This event includes various parts from the Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute that some of us visited a few years ago before Eva passed.

Eva and her twin sister were saved because they were twins. An unethical man wanted twins for his "medical experiments". This exhibit uses virtual reality to show Eva's story.

From Rhonda Impink

Ministry & Counsel

May 2024

“The chief responsibility of the Ministry & Counsel Committee is to nurture the spiritual life of the Meeting.”

This is the opening sentence about M&C in the Fairfield Meeting Handbook. So, what does that have to do with the things we actually do? Some of the activities are obviously related, such as finding a variety of good speakers on the weeks Phil is not here. But this week I have been thinking a lot about the various meals we set up throughout the year. Because we are a geographically wide group, we know that these are some of the few occasions where we can meet as small-f friends, and presumably nurture each other in the process. Most are pitch-ins but the Ice Cream Social is an exception, a meal being provided from M&C funds by M&C members. We invite everyone to simply come and visit with no responsibilities other than saving room for the ice cream! Looking just a bit ahead, this year the Ice Cream Social is set for June 2, so mark the date now and invite friends, neighbors, and those miscellaneous strays everyone has in their social circle.

The committee will meet in a retreat in May for a day of study and thought, hoping to deepen our understanding and practice as Quakers and eventually deepen the life of the Meeting. We will be discussing “Marking the Quaker Path: Seven Key Words Plus One,” by Robert Griswold. Tom Rockwell, Western Yearly Meeting Associate Superintendent, will lead us. If the title intrigues you, you can order a copy from pendlehill.org. Go to “shop” and there is a tab for Pendle Hill Pamphlets; this one is # 439.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

Did you know?

According to the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (US PIRG), the United States produces more than 12% of the planet's trash, although it represents only 4% of the world's population? In 2018, we threw over 292 million tons of trash into landfills or incinerators and each of us threw out 4.9 pounds of trash every day.

EVERY. DAY. In 2018, that was roughly 1,800 pounds of trash per person.

In all that trash being thrown out, food accounts for 21.6% of it; other trash includes containers and packaging (28.1%), nondurable goods like clothing and newspaper (17.3%), durable goods like furniture, appliances and cars (19.5%), and yard waste (12.1%).

Based on these figures, we throw away over a pound of food per person, per day! That's over 365 pounds of food per person, every year. And largely, this food "trash" winds up in a landfill where it decomposes anaerobically and emits methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases; even worse than carbon dioxide in its ability to trap heat in the atmosphere. So not only does wasting all that food hit our pocketbook, it also contributes to global warming and wastes the water used in its production. But that's not all. It's also about justice: to waste so much of what others might desperately need.

What can you do to lessen your food waste? Lots!!

- Buy less food! At the grocery, try sticking to a list of items you know you need;
- Don't stuff your fridge or freezer because out of sight is out of mind;
- Eat your leftovers! Or use leftover bits to make soups, casseroles, or omelets;
- At restaurants, don't be shy about taking your leftovers; tonight's dinner is tomorrow's delicious lunch;
- And if you're a gardener, COMPOST! Sure, you can't put everything in the compost bin, but there are a lot of food scraps that can be composted and therefore saved from the landfill. When food scraps (usually considered "greens") are composted with "browns" (like leaves, straw, newspaper) it all decomposes aerobically and does not produce methane, but does produce a wonderful nutrient-packed compost to use in your gardens. For more information on composting, see [Compost - Rodale Institute](#).

from Anita Camic

May Birthdays

Yolanda Vidal	May 03
Linze Southwick	May 04
Liane McClure	May 04
Zack Stevens	May 06
Nick Stevens	May 06
Ann Gautier	May 08
Fred Mann	May 11
Deborah Hunt	May 14
Jessica Gulley	May 15
Andrew Vidal	May 16
Ellory Smith	May 23
Kathryn Gandolfo	May 24
Frank Gladden	May 25
Lesley Rhoden	May 30
Gen Baker	May 31

May Anniversaries

Larry and Daina Chamness	May 01
Tom and Jo Ann Farrington	May 10
Michael and Walter Wamer	May 12
Fred and Linda Mann	May 21

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



200th Anniversary Fun Fact--We were recognized as of the 5th day of the 8th month (August 5, 1826.).

Frank Gladden, Jim McClung and I welcome your ideas on how to celebrate. We are one month older than Sugar Grove Meeting.

Sincerely, Sue Walton, Event Coordinator/Convenor.

May 2024 Calendar

May 01	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
May 02	Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8:00pm
May 05	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Book Club Discussion 12-2:00pm
May 07	Trustees committee. 6:30-7:30pm
May 08	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
May 11	Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am
May 12	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
May 14	Stewardship Committee. 1:30-2:30pm
May 15	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
May 16	Finance Committee 7-8:00pm
May 19	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 12-1:00pm
May 22	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
May 26	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship. 10:30-11:30am
May 27	Memorial Day. 11am-12pm
May 29	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm

Save the date: Sunday, May 19th, Chat Room. Morning chat will have retired Earlham Historian **Thomas Hamm** as its **guest speaker**. Tom will be in town to speak at a Mayflower Society Event the day before and then will be speaking at the Sugar Grove Meeting House later on the 19th at 3 pm after the Conservative Friends host their regular 3rd Sunday meeting for silent worship. Timothy Egan's recent book about the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana in the 1920's, ***A Fever in the Heartland***, has perplexed many Friends with its account of the roles of Indiana Quakers in the Klan. Tom Hamm will share his own research on how Indiana Friends both supported and opposed the KKK.

DON'T forget the Peace Walk on April 27, meeting at Friends Fellowship at noon. Also, the History Center will have a freed day on the same date.

Save this Date!
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
7 p.m. EST by Zoom

Dear Philip,

I'm pleased to tell you about an upcoming virtual event Julie and I would love for you to attend. [The American Friends Service Committee](#), an organization we have long supported and where we currently volunteer, is offering an intimate opportunity to hear from and speak with staff leaders.

Hosted by [Moment of Truth Campaign](#) committee volunteer Stephanie Kanwit, the event will feature stories about AFSC's work for [Just and Sustainable Peace](#), [Just Economies](#), and [Just Responses to Forced Displacement & Migration](#).

We will send you more details later. Meanwhile, feel free to send questions to us, (young@rose-hulman.edu or julie.young032@gmail.com) or to Emily Clarke, AFSC's Director of Leadership Gifts, eclarke@afsc.org. If you know of others who might be interested, you can send us their email addresses and we will send them an email like this one. Detailed information about the AFSC participants and the Zoom connection will be sent later.

Hope to see you there! (But if you will not attend, please just let one of us know.)

Frank and Julie Young,

members of the AFSC's Moment of Truth Campaign Committee

P.S. If there are others who might appreciate an invite and the information about Zoom access, you can let us know their names and email addresses and I will send appropriate invitations.

Upcoming Camps & Events

Junior High (7th-8th)	June 9-14	New Association Family Camp.	May 25-27
Beginner (w/parentK-2nd)	June 14-16	Young Adult Camp-Us	June 7- 9
Senior High 1 (9th grads)	June 16-21	Gospel Sing Weekend	June 21-23
Adventure ((5th-6th)	June 23-28	IYM Pastor's Short Course	July 1- 4
Senior High II (9th grads)	July 7-12	IYM Business Sessions	July 25-28
Pioneer (4th-5th)	July 14-18	Labor Day Family Camp	Ag 30-Sept 2
Little Friends (2nd-4th)	July 21-24	Quilting Retreat	Sept 12-15
Fall Impact (Teens)	Nov 1- 3	Young Adult "Level Up!"	Nov. 8-10

Fall Impact and Winter Sneak are teen retreats where we pack a week of camp into a weekend! During Fall Impact, there is a time of service to QH where everyone pitches in to prep camp for winter. Lumberjack Day is during this time. It is a time for volunteers who want to help QH cut down trees and get wood split for next summer's campfires.

Level Up, Camp-Us, & DIY Young Adult Retreats are for 18-25 year-olds to grow their faith with their friends. This has been a growing ministry that gives helpful tools for navigating life and making decisions during this important time of life.

Gen Baker

Holding in the Light List

Mark Milhous
Patti Siemantel
Mike Jones (Ellen Blacketer's brother-in-law)
Jerry & Wilma Mowrey (Cordray's friends)
Hisham Awartani
Mary Howe (Cordray's friend)
Sondra Hayes-Hartman
Bill Newell (Walton's colleague)
Tom Farrington's family

Louie Geiger's family
Don Hanlin (Hugh's brother)
Andy Pritchett
Linda Vankirk (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)
Nunzi Newell (daughter of Walton's colleagues)
Ramallah Friends School
WilmaKapcoe (Exercise mentor at Plainfield)
Mary Louise Cardwell

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:

Jenny & her mother Jeannie (Pam Smith'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)

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)
Liz Chrisinger (Lynne Durocher's friend)
Daryl T. Brown
Julie Kindle
Mary Lee Comer
Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)
Jim & Pat Wilson
Mike Roland (friend of Bill & Pam Smith)
Deann Waltz (zoom friend)

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

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

Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
Randyhorton4251@sbcgolbal.net
317-839-9682

Bulletin

Lee Edmunson
tarvedmun@yahoo.com
317-839-3902

United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
Slookabill@att.net
317-652-9315

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker
Baker7298@sbcgolbal.net
317-831-3526

Outreach Committee

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

Becky Horton

beckyhorton@hotmail.com
317-501-9406

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 3-3rd grade)

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

Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe
sue.roe@sbcglobal.net
317-445-9333
Laura Essex
Lauralou85@yahoo.com
317-871-4717

Newsletter

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

To Be Added to the Email List

Jeff Gabbard
MessgetoFairfield@att.net
317-839-3902

Caring Friends Committee

Dinah Geiger, clerk
dinahgeiger@att.net
317-752-5306

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Cindy Strietelmeier

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