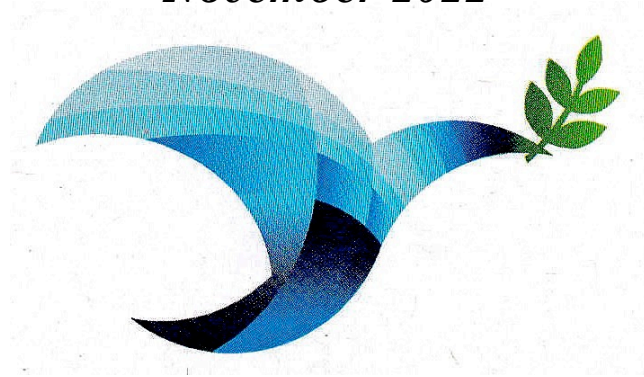


# THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

*November 2022*



*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 – November 2022

**Dear Friends,**

Can you believe that we are almost to November? A busy season is rapidly approaching! Wishing you all a bountiful Thanksgiving. Again, I was able to add a few more birthdays and anniversaries this past month. Please keep sending them. I hope to have an updated calendar eventually.

M. Beth Symons

### Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

#### *Seasoning*

What a wonderful autumn we've had so far. Moderate temperatures, coupled with stunning foliage, with ample opportunities to enjoy both. Unlike most years, I didn't procrastinate when it came to winter preparations, so we aren't scrambling to ready ourselves for cold weather. The firewood is laid up in neat rows, six ricks at our Danville home, and two ricks at our farmhouse, thoroughly dried and awaiting the match. By now, we have usually had our first fire, but not this year. We came close one evening, but I was called away and didn't return home until after nine, at which point it was easier to go to bed than it was to start a fire. Carrying in several armloads of firewood, kindling a fire, then waiting an hour plus for the woodstove to get sufficiently warm gives one pause. Sometimes, it's just easier to go to bed.

We have forty acres of woodlot at the farm, but I still hire a man to cut our firewood. As a child, I once saw a chainsaw bounce back on a man's head, neatly leaving a permanent part in his hair, and I've avoided chainsaws ever since. If you ever see me using a chainsaw, you'll know I've given up all hope and am trying to dispatch myself. My firewood man at the farm is Jeff Lindley, a fellow Quaker, who lives a mile down the road from us. Every April, he dumps a load of firewood next to our woodshed, at which point I invite several friends to use the farm for a weekend getaway, before saying, as if it's an afterthought, "Say, by the way, while you're down there, you might see a pile of firewood next to the woodshed. You wouldn't mind stacking it in the woodshed, would you?"

The firewood sits in the woodshed all summer long, the sun beating down on the metal roof, turning the woodshed into a Dutch oven, baking out the moisture in the wood. By November it is nearing the point of spontaneous combustion. There's a lesson in the drying of wood, that time spent in preparation is never wasted. My firewood man even has a word for it—seasoning—which is why he delivers the wood in April so it will be ready by November.

Seasoning is an underappreciated virtue. Because it requires patience, we resist it, preferring the quick and instant over the measured and gradual. An acquaintance of mine is having a house built. Promised the house in September, he threw a fit when the builder explained he was having difficulties finding skilled workers and that the house might not be ready until January. He demanded the house be finished on time, even if the workers were inexperienced, and so it was finished in September, though I suspect he'll come to regret his haste.

Another word for seasoning is aging, which our culture disdains, even though we know some things must season to be at their best—wine, steak, cheese, antiques, and friendships. Last month, I officiated at the wedding of a couple who had dated 11 years. They were teased about their unhurried romance in the speeches at the reception, but I felt good about their marriage, more so than if they had met the week before and decided to get married.

What needs to season in your life? What are you rushing that might benefit from a slower, more thoughtful approach?

## Ministry and Counsel

The end has come to the wonderful Quakerism classes by Max Carter, but the recordings of them are still available on Fairfield's website for viewing. Over 250 participants from all over the country and world received the link for these classes that were very informative and delightful. Fairfield's sharing of Max Carter and his knowledge was very appreciated by all who participated in this experience.

Ministry and Counsel will have a second collection for retired ministers on Nov. 20, 2022 since none of these collections occurred during the previous two years because of the pandemic. There will be two baskets available that Sunday in which you may place your donations for these people who have been so important to the Quaker community in the past.

Thank you to all who came to Books/Brunch in October. Getting together socially is important and especially valued after two years of infrequent gatherings.

Fairfield welcomed Jeff Wells on October 9<sup>th</sup> as he brought the message. Jeff was glad to experience Fairfield in person as he often joins on Zoom from his home in Salem, IN.

## Family Promise

Family Promise is adjusting to the management of a shelter house. Every incident hi-lights the difference between the vision and the reality.

When a homeless woman gave birth the shelter became her chance to keep her child and get off of the street. New beginnings and huge challenges.

We as a community of Friends joined with other groups and gave Family Promise the foundation it needed years ago. Our involvement helped shape the program. Our involvement today helps keep the program strong.

Now as Family Promise continues their mission towards stability, the learning curve continues. Please keep them in your thoughts as they deal with the reality of others seven days a week.

<https://familypromisehendrickscounty.org/>

Theresa

## 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](mailto:Daffodil327@hotmail.com) or 317-727-1678 Larry [Lcordray3388@gmail.com](mailto:Lcordray3388@gmail.com) 317-372-2777

## November Birthdays

Lina Lucas	November 05
Madalyn Hesson	November 06
Bill Smith	November 07
Sarah Stonerock	November 08
Laura Day	November 15
Jacob Swift	November 16
Terry Denbo	November 19
Jasmine Swift	November 21
Sue Roe	November 24
Larry Hesson	November 25
Mike Chenoweth	November 27
Michael Fumish	November 29
Scott Walton	November 30

## November Anniversaries

Stonerock, Robert and Cynthia	November 19
Wlaton, Sue and Scott	November 30

## November Thoughts

It is a dreary, rainy day. Trees turn dark as water is running down their trunks. Mornings are foggy and the dew is heavy. Shadows grow long and darkness comes early. Strong winds make the leaves tumble to the ground. They rustle as I walk on them. I am fascinated by the bits of purple, orange, red, and gold. Just a few weeks ago, I admired their beauty when they were still on the trees. A gust of wind picks up the leaves and I watch as they tumble back to the ground. Leaves are blanketing the ground like a giant colorful quilt. The rain has dropped the temperature. I had forgotten how cold and uncomfortable the north wind can be this time of year. Soon I will need my warm coat.

This time of year, is the realm of the fungi. These beautiful yet strange plants bear their most vivid colors in the cool, wet weather. Just two weeks ago I was astounded to see large yellow mushrooms in my backyard. They looked as if they had been painted with gold. What a contrast to the drab, black puffballs growing nearby. I am reminded of the light brown meadow mushrooms my parents and I used to pick when I was young. They were so tasty and tender in soups with a hambone cooked with it.

The hay in the field behind my house has been cut, flipped and then bailed. Young people piled it high on the wagons and transported it to the barn. On mild days, the autumn sunshine feels so comfortable. A trip to the orchard last month was wonderful. It was sunny and the air was filled with the fragrance of apples. I bought pink lady and golden delicious apples. The hundreds of pumpkins and fall colored mums on display were spectacular. Their brilliant colors competed with the leaves on the trees. The apples taste so good, I am eating at least two of them a day. Another trip to the orchard may be necessary before they close.

Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. We all have so many things to be thankful for: I am grateful for our nation and freedoms many countries can only dream about. How appreciative I am for love, family and friendships.

I am grateful for the common things in life: food, sunshine, rain, birds, trees and flowers. I am thankful for the changing seasons, our right to worship and for a God who watches over all.

Kathe Sommer Bryant

## Holding in the Light List

### Victims of Hurricane Ian

Ron and Kay Frye

Diana Hadley

Randy & John Haymaker (friends of Treg Hopkins and Don Adams)

Tina (Mary Dooly's niece)

Mike Roland (friend of Bill and Pam Smith)

Gladys (Pam and Bill Smith's beloved beagle)

Wilma Capco (friend of Pam Smith and Sue Walton)

Olo Bernoulli and family (webpage friend)

Bob Wilson and family (Anita Cami's uncle)

Don Edmundson (Lee's brother)

Jack & Mary Lou (friends of Mary Dooley)

### Neighborhood Bible Church

Helen Symons (JB's mother)

David Longo (Hugh Hanlin's friend)

Mary Denbo (Terry's mom)

Bill and Jo Maris (Stacey Denny's parents)

AnnaBelle Westfall (Carol Cordray's friend)

Deann Waltz (Zoom Friend)

Kathe Bryant

Patti Evans (Frank Burns Sister)

Barbara and Keith Raffell (Frank Burns sister and brother-in-law)

Becky McNabb

Randy Coffin

Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)

Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy Horton's sister)

Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)

Margaret Tutewiler-Cox

Margo Lawson

Martha Pokorny (wife of Cliff Prentice's friend)

Lauren Chinn (daughter of Larry Cordray)

Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles & Elsie Carter)

Daryl T Brown

Julie Kindle

Beth Sotkiewicz

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

Chris 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:*

David and Jennifer Hodge

Charles and Leslieann Lee

Abdul Suilaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family

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

Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitmeier's parents)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

## CLERK PLEASE

November 2022

The following highlights are from the September 18 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Having fully recovered from surgery, Phil returned to his busy schedule in September. In addition to a summary of his month's activities, he shared with us the following thought. Recent polls indicate that participation in organized religion, especially Christianity, is declining significantly. One study suggests that within 50 years, Christianity will be a minority religion in the United States. In light of this data, what can Friends at Fairfield do to create a rich and vital space that will continue to attract and help others? This question is well worth our time and attention.
- Financially, September saw big numbers but did end in a break-even month. Expenses were high due to periodic payments, particularly assessments for WYM. Revenue was also high due to exceptional generosity in worship services. Average weekly offering was about \$5100 compared to about \$3500 for the year to date. Finance will look into this. The result was a very small surplus, and continued robust general fund reserves. There was some discussion as to how to dispense funds that exceed our reserve goal, many feel these funds should go to outreach projects. Past minutes will be researched so that our intention for these funds can be clarified at the November MM.
- Ministry and Counsel reported that the Quakerism Class presented by Max Carter has been a sensational program, with over 250 participants, either by Zoom or by viewing the recording. M&C helped with the first Fairfield Sale/Books and Brunch held Oct. 15 after a two year hiatus because of the Covid Pandemic. The event will be evaluated as to how to improve attendance. The committee decided to continue with singing only two hymns through October and will review that in their meeting on Nov. 4. Work continues on fine tuning the Zoom presentation of the Sunday worship service. Some Zoom attendees like to visit after the meeting, and this is possible when the person controlling Zoom does not end the session for all. Thanks go to Tom Farrington for helping update the camera.
- Trustees reported that they have sold many items from the 1892 Meeting House, including all of the short pews and many of the longer ones. All money collected is being transferred to the general fund. Lee Edmundson requested about \$350 to purchase a lapel mike for use by the Meeting. This is outside the Trustees budget, therefore approval of the MM was requested and subsequently granted. In a brief meeting of the clerks of Trustees, Finance, M&C, and Communications, the consensus was that technology should be the responsibility of Trustees and that communications also be incorporated. It was recommended that Technology & Communications become a subcommittee under Trustees, and that this change be made in the upcoming handbook revision. This was approved by the MM.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be November 20.

## FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

October 16, 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. You can subscribe at <https://www.plough.com/en/subscriptions/daily-dig>. The following is the October 5 edition. It is a piece which I think adds to the significance of silence.

### The Whisper in Silence

FRANK MULDER

If we become silent, we step out of the hectic tangle of our relationships. We need solitude sometimes. Without others, we don't have a community or an identity, but sometimes we need to step back and stand still to contemplate our relationships to other people. And to God, who is most of the time a silent God, a God who doesn't shout but whispers – a whisper we can't hear until we silence all other sounds.

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

## Green Team News

### **Recycling - Are we changing with the times?**

Perhaps many of you remember the Mobro 4000 trash barge in 1987 that hauled the same load of trash from New York City to Belize and back until a disposal site was found. Or perhaps the first Earth Day in 1970 is a more prominent memory. The Cuyahoga River fire in 1969 was another event crying out for better care of our resources and environment. It was a time that created the mantra Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. I like to add Rethink.

As a society we have done a great job of thinking it's good to keep "it" out of the landfill, whatever "it" might be. We have emphasized the importance of recycling but failed to adapt with the changes of an industry that began over 50 years ago.

Today's Schedule D Landfills are a far cry from the town dumps they replaced. Today's landfills are engineering marvels, in my opinion, but that doesn't mean we should fill them up. So, what do we do?

Just about everything could be recycled, but that doesn't mean it is. Recycling is always local. What is collected in your area may not be collected in mine. Glass is a good example. Although glass can be recycled repeatedly, it is heavy. Transportation costs are many times prohibitive. There are entities in and around Indianapolis that can collect glass in an economical way, and yet they won't collect plastic bottles.

Styrofoam is another material that can be recycled, but the transportation cost of something that is mostly air is not usually seen as a wise way to spend money.

There must be a market for the material, it must become something else. If not, it just takes a more costly route to the landfill. Cardboard lately brings in more profit than aluminum. There are companies that will process it nearby and a market to supply boxes for our online purchases. I was surprised when I heard that. That strong need for cardboard won't last indefinitely.

Find out what's recyclable in your area and follow the guidelines offered. Reach out to the company or the solid waste district that serves your area. You can find your district here. <http://aiswmd.org/page-1630206>

Proper recycling is good. Reuse and reduce are even better options. They eliminate the transportation and energy costs involved in recycling. Reduce and reuse do take some thoughtful planning. Consider where will my item go when I'm done with it, what will it become and how will it get there?

#### **Things to Consider:**

- Perhaps there is a way to lease, borrow or share the item you want to purchase.
  
- As you head to a restaurant that serves large portions, take your own container for the leftovers.
  
- If plastic silverware is provided take only what you need. Perhaps you can share a knife, maybe you don't need the spoon. Better yet, take your own. Those plastic utensils are not recyclable, and the compostable ones are not compostable unless you have a commercial type of compost facility.
  
- Explore your own creative options as you rethink what you throw away.

Respectfully,  
Carol Stradling  
Solid Waste District Director, Retired



## November 2022 Calendar

<b>November 2</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Ministry and Counsel Committee 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 6</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am</b>
<b>November 9</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 12</b>	<b>Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30 am</b>
<b>November 13</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am</b>
<b>November 16</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 17</b>	<b>Finance Committee 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 19</b>	<b>Green Team 10-11:00am</b>
<b>November 20</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 21</b>	<b>Stewardship Committee 2:30-3:30pm</b>
<b>November 23</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>
<b>November 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
<b>November 27</b>	<b>Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am</b>
<b>November 30</b>	<b>NA Support Group 7-8:00pm</b>

## Meeting Contacts

### Pastor

Phil Gulley  
[philiphgulley@gmail.com](mailto:philiphgulley@gmail.com)  
317-446-4923

### Choir Director

### Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton  
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317-839-9682

### Outreach Committee

Stacey Denny  
[hdenny123@att.net](mailto:hdenny123@att.net)  
317-313-1171

### Caring Friends Committee

Becky McClung  
[rgmcclung@gmail.com](mailto:rgmcclung@gmail.com)  
317-690-0160

### United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill  
[slookabill@att.net](mailto:slookabill@att.net)  
317-839-4712

### To Be Added to the Email List

Tom Farrington  
[MessageToFairfield@att.net](mailto:MessageToFairfield@att.net)  
317-839-3902

### Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker  
[baker7298@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baker7298@sbcglobal.net)  
317-831-3526

### Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray  
[daffodil327@hotmail.com](mailto:daffodil327@hotmail.com)  
317-372-2777  
317-372-1678

### Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe  
[Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Sue.roe@sbcglobal.net)  
317-445-9333

### Bulletin

Tom Farrington  
[MessageToFairfield@att.net](mailto:MessageToFairfield@att.net)  
317-839-3902

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

Tara Stewart  
[Tara\\_m\\_stewart@hotmail.com](mailto:Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com)  
317-627-8964  
Jimmy McClung  
[moviemanjm@gmail.com](mailto:moviemanjm@gmail.com)  
765-346-8848

### Newsletter

M. Beth Symons  
[mbethsymons@aol.com](mailto:mbethsymons@aol.com)  
317-409-0300

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Hubert Perry