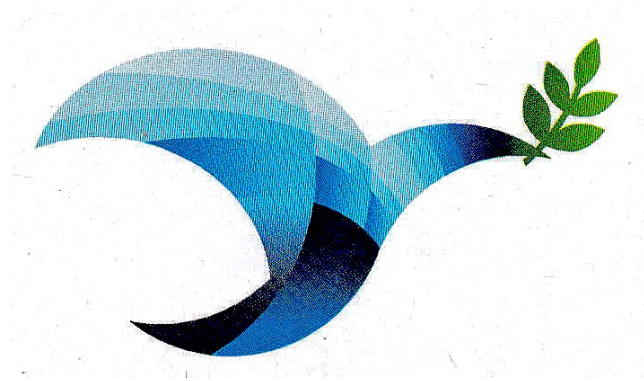


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

September 2021



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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THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY*Three Values That Serve Us Well*

As you know by now, we're back to gathering via Zoom every Sunday morning. The day our Covid Committee and Ministry and Counsel made that decision, I learned of two vaccinated persons contracting the delta variant—Mark Strietelmeier's mother and our next-door neighbor, who is now quarantined at our farmhouse to avoid infecting family members.

When we returned to in-person meeting, we mentioned the possibility of returning to Zoom if conditions worsened, but I didn't think that would be likely given the development of vaccines. As it turns out, a degree in theology should never be confused for a degree in virology, and here we are again. I suspect this might well be our future pattern until Covid is defeated or managed—in person worship when infection rates are low, Zoom worship when infection rates rise. What won't change is our commitment to be an evolved and loving community in a world in sore need of community.

I catch myself returning time and again to a small storehouse of useful sayings, one of them is chiseled in the stone floor of the headquarters of the California Academy of Sciences. It reads, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change."

For years I thought Darwin said that, but it turns out he didn't. It is, however, an accurate summation of his work, and a timely reminder of the inevitability of change and the importance of adaptation. A man in our town pastored a local congregation for several years. When Covid hit, he dismissed it as a hoax and insisted his church gather in person, unmasked, and singing. Last month, he attended a family reunion where several of the participants were ill with Covid. He died last week from Covid, his last days spent in the intensive care unit. His failure to adapt to a new reality literally killed him.

Unfortunately, this mindset runs dangerously rampant in our nation. White supremacists, unable to bear the thought of being a minority in an increasingly diverse country, are reacting with violence, injustice, and hate. Their failure to adapt to a new reality harms us all.

Every day we awaken, we are presented with a changing world. We are daily required to accept or adapt. This is the great human dilemma, knowing which changes merit our acceptance and which changes require our adaptation. No matter the situation, we are always called to compassion, justice, and wisdom, the three values that serve us well no matter the situation.

CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK**CLERK PLEASE
September, 2021**

The following highlights are drawn from minutes for the August 8 Monthly Meeting:

- Between July revenue resulting in a surplus, and the general reserve fund being slightly above the targeted amount, we continue to maintain good financial health.
- After a one week delay, a program for children ages 3 to 8th grade during Meeting for Worship, began on July 25. The program is led by Tara Stewart and Gan Baker.
- Hugh Hanlin is planning to lead a Quakerism 102 class beginning in the fall. Details will be forthcoming. Over 60% of people responding to the survey this year requested this offering. A Quakerism 101 class will probably be offered next year.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between Dr. Sherry Strafford Rediger and Fairfield Friends Meeting was presented and approved. This agreement establishes terms for a continuation of counseling services at Fairfield. Please see the August 8 Monthly Meeting minutes for details.
- Lee Comer remains in contact with the Plainfield Planning Commission and has presented Trustees with correspondence from them regarding how roadway plans and park development are proceeding. Nothing regarding the intersection is imminent.
- Sarah Lookabill reported that 28 back-to-school bags were delivered for the staff at Patricksburg Elementary School.
- Randy Horton reported the Men's Group was looking to have a fish fry during October. It will consist of preordered bags of cooked fish only, and no meal items will be available. Orders will be taken in advance. The event will be limited to the Fairfield community and not publicized to the wider community.
- **Please stay tuned for Email regarding the conditions for Meeting for Worship as these continue to evolve.** For now, we will continue to wear masks inside the Meeting House.

Next Monthly Meeting will be September 12.

CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK (Cont'd)

MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION August, 2021

The last time Brent Bill spoke at Fairfield, I think very early in 2018, he pointed me to 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.

Anyway, I read these every morning and save the ones that mean the most to me. Here is one of my favorites from the month of July.

The Way Forward

Albert Schweitzer

We live in a time when the good faith of peoples is doubted more than ever before. Expressions throwing doubt on the trustworthiness of each other are bandied back and forth... We cannot continue in this paralyzing mistrust. If we want to work our way out of the desperate situation in which we find ourselves, another spirit must enter into the people.... We must approach them in the spirit that we are human beings, all of us, and that we feel ourselves fitted to feel with each other; to think and will together in the same way.

Source: *Peace or Atomic War*

I have a favor to ask. In an effort to boost participation in Monthly Meetings I am seeking your input. Please share your ideas, by emailing me at randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net.

We have sometimes 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

USFW**USFW UPDATE**

Prior to the start of the school year, the Fairfield United Society of Friends Women group delivered back-to-school gift bags for each staff member, no matter their job, to Patricksburg Elementary School. Several cases of soda pop and containers of hand sanitizer were also taken. All of these items were contributed by individual group members. Several people have asked if we were going to do a school supply drive for the school but they have not asked us to do this this year. We are waiting to hear what the next project for them will be.

USFW will be holding a fundraiser selling Butter Braids 9/5-18/2021. Some of you may be familiar with these through other groups. They are yeast bread products which come frozen to bake later at your convenience. According to those who have had them before, they are excellent. We will be posting more information closer to the actual dates.

All funds raised by USFW go directly to local, national and international outreach projects as well as meeting equipment and appliance needs for the Fairfield kitchen and dining room. All women of the meeting are invited to join us on the fourth Monday of each month at 11:00 AM. Our current plan is to have combined in-person/virtual meetings. Any questions, please contact Sarah Lookabill, slookabill@att.net, call/text 317-431-6342.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

As much as those of us who have been attending in-person worship love seeing and visiting each other, it has been decided that we will go back to Zoom for the next few weeks until we see this increase in Covid cases decrease. We have used these months to get adjusted to our hybrid service and will be ready to go back at any time that we feel is safe. Until then, we'll see you on Zoom!

Because over 60% of responders of the survey which was held earlier this year were interested in a Quakerism 102 class, Hugh Hanlin has agreed to teach this class. Watch for more information about this offering soon. A Quakerism 101 class will probably be offered next year.

Flexibility is the word that the Ministry and Counsel committee has lived by these last 18 months, and we appreciate the support and flexibility which you all have also shown. Thank you.

CARING FRIENDS**Hold in the Light List**

Carol and Larry Cordray

Cindy Streitmeier's parents

The People in Haiti

Family of Jeff Curtis (Laura Gabbard's father)

John, Laura, and Jack Essex

Nate Risley (Ellen Blacketer's grandson's friend)

Nancy Messer

Family of Sylvia Leverett (Joni's stepmother)

Mary Dooley

Brett Stewart

Sarah Lookabill

Daryl T. Brown

Julie Kindle

Patty Bowling

Charles Lee (Leslieann's husband)

Beth Sotkiewicz

Bill & Jo Maris (Stacey Denny's parents)

Jennifer Hodge

Joni Leverett

Margie Wollitz (Mary's sister)

Betty Strietelmeier (Mark's mother)

Alan Andrews (Larry & Carol Cordray's friend)

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

David Hodge

David & Bobbi Garver (Cindy Hurst's friends)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Chris Gautier

The Lord's Pantry

Cunot Feeding Program

Family Promise

CARING FRIENDS (Cont'd)

CARING FRIENDS - SEPTEMBER 2021

Several people in our Fairfield family and larger Quaker community cope with ongoing issues of compromised health or aging, or otherwise live with challenging situations on a daily basis. An important way of holding Friends in the light is to send cards of support and encouragement now and then. With the intention of facilitating this, we list names and addresses in the monthly newsletter and include updates as we are aware of them.*

If you would like to be added or removed from the list, please contact Becky McClung, 317-690-0160, rgmccclung@gmail.com.

*Any time we have updates you'll see them in bold font below:

Ruth Alber
8616 W. 10th St. Apt. 128
Indianapolis, IN 46234
◆ from West Newton, RN and former missionary in Kaimosi, Kenya. Assisted living now.

Linda Bryant
10705 Whippoorwill Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46231
◆ **Linda is doing well these days and is happy to have received the Pfizer booster vaccine.**

Mary Denbo
1149 Halifax Cr.
Indianapolis, IN 46231
◆ Successful procedure completely resolved back pain from an injury. At home with daughter Terry.

Sam & Kelsea Gulley
3981 Buckeye Lane, Unit 4
Fort Wainwright, AK 99703
◆ Sam is a U.S. Army flight medic serving in Alaska.

Robert and Ginny Hayes-Bennett
5425 Indiana Cove Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46268
◆ **Robert has moved into a full nursing facility that specializes in Huntington's Disease. It was a difficult decision because it's 2 hours away from Ginny but she feels he'll get the care he needs. Robert's address is:**
*Hanover Nursing Center
410 W. Lagrange Rd.
Hanover, IN 47243*

Cindy Hurst
2113 Woodstream Dr.
Avon, IN 46123
◆ Widowed in 10/2019, she lives alone; Finds much encouragement from two virtual support groups & some "very nice neighbors".

Clara McClure
◆ Our beloved former pianist, Clara has advanced dementia now, residing at Sugar Grove Senior Living. We don't send cards anymore because she is unaware, but please hold her in the light.

Abdul Sulaiman and Nisreen Rasheed & daughters Mawlida, Rolaf & Sidra Sulaiman
2052 Fullwood Dr.
Brownsburg, IN 46112
◆ Fairfield sponsored the Sulaimans' immigration from Aleppo Syria in 2016. They are doing well & moved into their first home in 2020.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September

Paul L. & Monique Howard (09/01)
Thomas Farrington (09/05)
Dale & Margaret Gladden (09/05)
Gene & Carol Carter (09/05)
Allison Swift (09/06)
Herb & Stacey Denny (09/06)
Ralph Baker (09/09)
Ava Matthews (09/09)
Ralph & Gan Baker (09/10)
Kyler & Janet Schoen (09/11)
John & Courtney Cowley (09/13)
Lynne Durocher (09/14)
Robert Heald (09/15)
Bob & April Stevens (09/16)
Kevin & Cynthia Day (09/16)
Richard & Julie Culbertson (09/16)
Pamela Smith (09/19)
Patti Siemantel (09/20)
Brad & Althea Borud (09/23)
Daina Chamness (09/25)
Mark McClure (09/25)
Sarah Lookabill (09/26)
Perry & Mary Beth Williams (09/26)
Eric & Amy Sageser (09/28)
Kyle & Lesley Rhoden (09/29)

October

Michael Warner (10/01)
John Pierce (10/02)
Helene Reyburn (10/02)
Georges Gandolfo (10/05)
Brett & Jo Heald (10/05)
Thomas Duran (10/05)
Jonas Stewart (10/14)
Madalyn Cunningham (10/17)
Christian Gautier (10/21)
Bella Lucas (10/24)
Robert Mork & Jill Wiley (10/24)
GeorgeAnne Baker (10/27)
Lee Comer (10/27)
Sean Horton (10/27)
Jay & Elaine Hackett (10/27)
Steven Blacketer (10/28)
Cathy & Carl Lucas (10/29)
Ronald Frye (10/31)

MEETING CONTACTS

<u>Pastor:</u> Phil Gulley Philip@philipgulley.com	317-446-4923
<u>Presiding Clerk of the Meeting:</u> Randy Horton randyhorton4251@sbcglobal.net	317-839-9682
<u>Recording Clerk:</u> Lynne Durocher Ld091449@yahoo.com	317-888-7242
<u>Treasurers:</u> Mike Chenoweth mocnenoweth@gmail.com Karen Heald healdrobt@att.net	317-445-0387 317-696-6133
<u>Membership Coordinators:</u> Larry & Carol Cordray daffodil327@hotmail.com	317-372-2777 317-372-1678
<u>Bulletin and Newsletter (info due by 20th of month):</u> Tom Farrington thomasfarrington1946@gmail.com	317-839-3902
<u>United Society of Friends Women:</u> Sarah Lookabill slookabill@att.net	317-839-4712
<u>Fairfield Men's Fellowship:</u> Ralph Baker baker7298@sbcglobal.net	317-831-3526
<u>Outreach Committee:</u> Stacey Denny hdenny123@att.net	317-313-1171
<u>Caring Friends Committee:</u> Becky McClung rgmcclung@gmail.com	317-690-0160

MEETING CONTACTS (Cont'd)

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