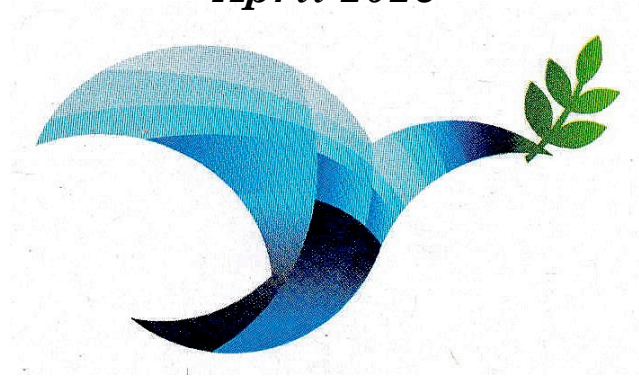


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

April 2023



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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(317) 856-3121 www.FairfieldFriends.o

The Fairfield Friend – April 2023

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Easter, Ready or Not

Easter is just over the horizon. We've passed Ash Wednesday, are barreling through Lent, fast approaching Palm Sunday, and after that, Easter. It was a big deal when I was a Catholic. My mother would haul us to church every Sunday and holy days—Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. With St. Joseph's Day and St. Patrick's Day thrown in for good measure. By Easter Sunday, my knees were calloused and my voice hoarse from prayer. Then there was the matter of giving up something for Lent, never something I hated, such as spinach or lima beans, but always something I loved—ice cream or candy or soft drinks. You can imagine my delight when I became a Quaker in the youth group at Danville Meeting and Mary Lee Comer told me Quakers looked askance at holy days and festivals. No more fish, no more ashes, no more feeling guilty for eating a Snicker's during Lent. Jesus had set me free, indeed!

I like holidays, except for the ones forced upon us by those who claim to know the mind of God better than everyone else. In Catholic circles, these holidays were Holy Days of Obligation, which tells you everything you need to know about them. Obligation. But the best holidays can never be compelled. Instead, they arise from free and joyful hearts, allowing us to march to our own tune, not someone else's.

When I was a kid, I had a friend whose birthday I dreaded. It was never enough to buy him a gift. It had to be the perfect gift, personally delivered, costing a hefty amount of money. He never permitted me to ask him what exactly he wanted. "You should know me good enough to know what I want," he would say. So I would guess, and invariably guess wrong. Each birthday was followed by days of recrimination and lament. This went on for several years, until I finally decided that while Jesus wanted me to love everyone, that didn't mean I had to spend time with everyone, so found a better friend.

Birthdays, holy days, and relationship lose something in compulsion. Just as I don't like forced prayer, neither do I appreciate obligatory celebration. If I want to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, I will do that any day I wish, not just Easter. If I want to be generous, I can do that any day I wish, and not just Christmas.

A gripe I have with religion is its tendency to construct boundaries around our spiritual experiences, thereby ensuring that the calendar will dictate our response to God and not life itself. If I've learned one thing about God, it's that God doesn't have a day planner. I remember one of my first Easters at Fairfield, some twenty years ago. A woman stood during our open worship, weeping. She apologized for not being in an Easter spirit, but her dear friend had died that week and she wanted us, her other friends, to know. I'm grateful she wasn't so bound to the calendar that she couldn't share her grief. I'm grateful too that those around her reached out to hug and hold her. It was one of our finest Easter's ever.

Whether this Easter season finds you joyful or not, whether it finds you ready for resurrection or not, please know you are always welcome at Fairfield, every day, whatever your condition.

CLERK PLEASE

APRIL 2023

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

- Mike Chenoweth presented the February Financial Statement. February was a routine month, with worship collections and budgeted expenses within \$300 of each other. The only unusual operations expense was \$1,547 for door repair. Revenue was typical for the month of February. Average weekly offering was down from January, but still higher to date than the first two months of 2022. This close to even month left us with a reserve funds balance remaining about \$30K higher than our goal.
- Ann Tarvin reported on behalf of Ministry and Counsel. Beginning April 2 the order of worship will change to accommodate participation of the children in the early part of the service. Many photos have been received for the photo board, and all members and attenders are encouraged to either provide a new one or state that the current one can be reused. There has been much positive feedback on our revised website, and a Meeting in Ohio has asked if they can use ours as a model for a new one of their own – many thanks to all who have worked to make this happen. Due to interest in his new sermon series, Phil will post future topics on his Facebook.
- Jim McClung reported for Trustees that he and Lee Comer met with Plainfield officials on March 16 regarding proposed changes to the intersection and potential impact on the 1892 Meeting House. Three options were presented, and these will be reviewed with the Planning Commission on March 21. Parking lot lights have been converted to LED lighting, and all lights have been restored. Recent donations are adding to landscaping maintenance needs, volunteers are requested to help with these increasing demands. Additional grab bars will be installed in two stalls in the women's restroom.
- Appointment of Lynn Adams to the nominating committee was approved.
- Lynne Durocher, clerk of the Finance Committee shared the following: Finance Committee recommends that \$10,000 of the excess Reserve Fund be released to the Outreach Committee to be used as they determine. Additional funds may be released in the future and other committees or uses may be recommended as the recipient of these funds. Funds from the excess Reserve Fund are not in lieu of the amounts received by committees from the Meeting's annual budget. This was approved.
- It was agreed that Clerk Randy Horton will assume the role of editor for the upcoming revision of our handbook, that he will work with designated representatives to assure that committee needs are met, and that he will draw upon the experience of April Stevens who edited the last handbook revision. The finished document will be reviewed by the Monthly Meeting for approval.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be April 16.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

March 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 March 16 edition.

Unpleasantness among Believers

ANDREAS EHRENPREIS

Even at the time of the early Christians there was plenty of unpleasantness among the believers. Was the unity of the Spirit lost because of that? The church remained united in spite of it, that one church to which we must listen if we do not want to be outside. It would be wonderful if a people of God could live in uninterrupted peace, completely without blemish or defilement or any hateful thing. But because of our human weakness, such disturbances happen all the time. One ought never, on account of such shortcomings and weaknesses, to reject a whole people.

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 Support Week

March 26th began another week of food support for Family Promise. Though it may appear to be the same story for us, the new Families at Almost Home, are going through the unwelcomed trauma of homelessness. The staff at Family Promise has developed the expertise to help the families recover. I appreciate Fairfield Friends and the teamwork to assist those in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Thanks for joining us on the journey.
Theresa

Ministry and Council

Beginning April 2, the **order of worship will be revised** to give the children more participation and also resulting in better grouping of silent periods as a happy side benefit. Tara has specifically requested that they be included in the Joys and Concerns, so the food collection has also been moved to the opening portion of the meeting. They will also participate in the first hymn. Be sure to read your bulletins closely that day!

We have received a lot of new photos for the **photo board** and encourage all who attend Fairfield to submit one. This is for attenders as well as members to help us get to know one another better.

The **website** is getting good feedback with final tweaking of the Children's Church section. A Meeting in Ohio plans to use our website as a model for their new one. Many thank to all who have worked to upgrade this for us. In response to inquiries by several visitors interested in his new series, Phil will send advance notice of the sermon topics and post them on his Facebook.

In addition, we approved reimbursement for Phil to attend the WYM Pastor's Retreat on May 1 -3. For better communication, we also planned time for a specific session to meet in person and go over the surveys from last year.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

April Birthdays

Gene Crawley	April 01
Randy Horton	April 02
Dominic Lucas	April 02
Bruce Borud	April 09
Caden McClure	April 10
Chase Rhoden	April 13
Kay Fry	April 15
Joan Gulley	April 20
Hugh Hanlin	April 20
Cristina Emch	April 21
Margo Lawson	April 24
Sally McCracken	April 26

April Anniversaries

Chris and Anne Gautier	April 27
Michael and Rebecca Furnish	April 28

April Promise

Perched above the thorny hedge
A robin calls
This early warming spring,
A migratory flaw,
For lunch is frozen underground.
Kids in shorts and winter coats,
Pastels shroud the Celtic plaids
While leprechauns and rabbits
Vie for window space—
It's all a sign
Of something lapsed in memory
That crosses the mind
In times of need,
When hopes, buried in ash,
Blood-stained and burdened,
Begin to emerge.
There is a sense of promise
In the robin's call
That will nourish the soul
For those who watch and listen.

M. Beth Symons

Green Team News

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](#).

Anita Camic

Caring Friends

3rd Annual BBQ Challenge Benefit for Cunot Food Pantry

Cataract Lake Country Market

10710 Boat Dock Road

Poland, IN 47868

Saturday, May 6, 2023@3:00pm

April 2023 Calendar

April 1	Ministry and Counsel Retreat 9am-12pm
April 2	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
April 4	Trustees Meeting 6:30-7:30pm
April 5	NA Support Group 7-8pm
April 6	Ministry and Counsel committee 7-8pm
April 8	Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am Green Team 10:45-11:45am
April 9	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Easter Egg Hunt 10-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
April 11	Stewardship Committee 2-3pm
April 12	NA Support Group 7-8pm
April 13	Finance Committee 7-8pm
April 15	Fairfield Spring Hike 10am-2pm
April 16	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 7-8pm
April 18	All Clerks Meeting 7-8pm
April 19	NA Support Group 7-8pm
April 21	Windborne Concert 7-9pm
April 23	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
April 26	NA Support Group 7-8pm
April 30	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am

Holding in the Light List

Randy Coffin

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)

Helen Symons (JB's mother)

Patty Bowling

Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)

Marty (Carol Cordray's friend)

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)

Jim Edwards (Ashley Smith's step-father)

Mike (Tara Stewart's friend)

Craig Reasoner

Bob & Debbie Stahlhut (Theresa Minton's brother)

Bill and Jo Maris (Stacey Denney's parents)

Deanna Waltz (Zoom friend)

Neighborhood Bible Church

Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy's sister)

Chris Gautier

Bruce Ramey (Lynne Durocher's brother)

Lauren Chinn (Larry Corray's daughter)

Ruth Turner (the late Charlie and Elsie Carter's daughter)

Daryl T. Brown

Julie Kindle

Beth Becker (Sue Walton's friend)

Nancy Graham

Mary Lee Comer

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 Streitmeier'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)

Mary Denbo (Terry's Mom)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

David and Jennifer Hodge

Margo Lawson

Beth Sotkiewicz

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

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Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

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Caring Friends Committee

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United Society of Friends Women

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Membership Coordinators

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317-372-1678

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Bulletin

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

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Jimmy McClung
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765-346-8848

Newsletter

M. Beth Symons
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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.

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