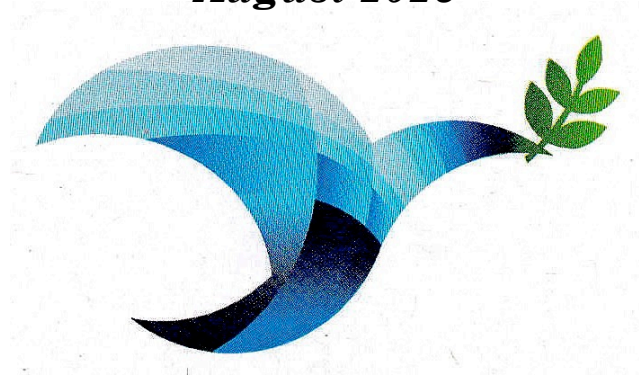


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

August 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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The Fairfield Friend – August 2023

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

Social Recession

In a recent blog, Heather Cox Richardson, observed that when people hear the word “recession,” they think in economic terms. But recessions, Richardson noted, can take other forms and spoke of “social recession,” when our confidence in social institutions is so depleted our sense of community suffers. Quite simply, our lack of trust in one another cripples our ability to live together. Social scientists who’ve studied this trend cite the national assassinations of the 1960s, the Vietnam War, Watergate, the abuse scandals of the Roman Catholic Church, the politicization of media, the banking illegalities causing the Great Recession, and the financial and sexual scandals of prominent evangelicals. This social recession didn’t happen overnight and won’t soon be repaired.

Most of us have borne witness to this social recession, even though we’ve lacked the ability and awareness to describe it. It’s difficult to notice and interpret long-term trends as they occur, but once the problem is defined, we can begin to seek solutions, one of which is our commitment to relearn trust. This is never easy, because we’ve all been let down and disappointed by institutions and people we once trusted.

My way of combatting social recession is to remain engaged in social institutions. I write and speak about political issues because I’m not willing to ignore that important dimension of our common life. I remain at Fairfield as your pastor because I believe spiritual communities are an integral part of social cohesion and betterment. That’s also why I support unions, guilds, bowling leagues, Rotarians, and Little League baseball. I’m for anything that brings people together, with the exception of wars and Justin Bieber concerts.

The only way to correct the collapse of social institutions is to commit ourselves anew to social institutions, which means committing ourselves anew to one another and the communities we form, both large and small. I have a friend so disappointed in American politics he now refuses to vote, which to me is like being so disappointed in marriage you ignore your spouse. In what world is that a viable and reasonable response?

The effects of economic recession are clear—poverty, hunger, illness, and crime. The effects of social recession are equally visible, once we know what to look for—depression, anxiety, mistrust, anger, and loneliness—all of which are at epidemic levels today. I’m not sure what the answer to economic recession is, monetary policy has never been my strong suit. But I know without a doubt the solution to social recession—to join, to belong, to include, to gather, to unite. These are my priorities as your pastor, as one who believes we are not saved so much by Jesus as we are by one another.

CLERK PLEASE

August 2023

The following highlights are from the July 16 Monthly Meeting (MM), be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- Mike Chenoweth presented the June Financial Statement. June was not a good month for two reasons, collections were down as they typically are in June, and it was the end of a quarter when Yearly Meeting assessments are paid. The average weekly offering was \$1,912, lowering the year-to-date average to \$3,515 that is still \$600 more than at the same time last year. Overall, the first six months of 2023 resulted in a \$14,776 budget surplus, and reserves stand at around \$31,000 in excess of our target.
- Ann Tarvin reported for Ministry and Counsel with items that are in the planning stage. Fall hike will be some time in October. A trip to the National Civil Rights Museum is being considered, as well as the Underground Railroad Museum in Cincinnati. End of summer pitch in/picnic will be held August 27 following worship.
- Trustees did not meet in July so there was no report.
- Gan Baker reported for Christian Education. Children's church has been suspended for the summer, and will resume the week after Labor Day. The Halloween party that had been tentatively scheduled for October 29 will be October 22.
- Sue Walton is still seeking help with Books and Brunch, for publicity in particular.
- A minute regarding the Lick Branch cemetery has been compiled by Randy Horton, building on notes written in the past by Phyllis and Frank Gladden. It is important to have this recorded and filed in the archives at Earlham as it explains why those graves now reside in a corner of the Fairfield cemetery.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be August 20.

FAIRFIELD MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION

July 16, 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 June 20 edition.

Holy Hilarity

RICHARD J. FOSTER

Humor, offered in love, can help build community life. Frankly, an occupational hazard of religious folk is to become stuffy bores. And humor helps to undercut this danger by stoutly refusing to allow us to take ourselves too seriously. It is a grace when we can laugh at our gaffes and foibles. Humor helps us welcome the unexpected and the unpredictable, to relish the ridiculous and the absurd. We don't need to create a huge chasm between prayer and playfulness.

[Laughing is the other side of weeping. The humble are able to do both freely.](#)

Using the link above you will get to the complete article. The following is also found there.

It seems to me that humble folk laugh a lot. Somehow they can easily see the comedy that the twists and turns (of) ordinary life brings us. Not the boisterous laughter that is at the expense of others. No, I mean joyful laughter at the quandaries that come to us almost daily. Laughing is the other side of weeping, and those soaked in humility are able to do both freely.

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

August Birthdays

Lane Slaughter	August 03
Linda Mann	August 05
Jo Ann Farrington	August 06
Timothy Harding	August 06
Theresa Minton	August 07
Will Denny	August 11
Skip Lyford	August 12
Zach Rhoden	August 14
Jill Wiley	August 15
Andre Mork	August 16
Ashley Smith	August 16
Sue Walton	August 17
Mike Goss	August 18
Linda Bryant	August 19
Randy Coffin	August 19
Julie Kindle	August 19
Liesl Mork	August 19
Charles Heavlin	August 21
Baylynn Edwards	August 22
Mindy Cunningham	August 29
Cindy Hurst	August 31

August Anniversaries

Jim and Becky McClung	August 01
Jeff and Laura Gabbard	August 04
Randy and Becky Horton	August 09
Louis and Dinah Geiger	August 15
Mark and Cindy Strietelmeier	August 15
Albert and Cindy Vidal	August 15
Lynne Durocher	August 31

Ministry and Counsel July 2023

M&C has been busy planning for late summer and fall events. Here are some things to look forward to:

- The end of summer **pitch-in picnic** will be held on August 27 following worship. Bring a picnic worthy dish and join us. If the weather is good, a few tables may find their way to the porch. Drinks will be provided.
- The **Fall Hike** will be set sometime in October at the Little Africa Settlement (also known as Lick Creek) in Orange County. If you don't want to hike there are also places to sit and visit. Details will follow when the date is final.
- **Books and Brunch** will happen on Saturday, November 3. Sue Walton will be organizing this event; she needs **help NOW** with publicity and advance planning. If you can help with that aspect, contact Sue (1-847-209-0047 or sue@suewalton.com).
- There is a new map on the wall in the dining room so we can update where we live. Maybe there is another attender who lives nearer than you thought! If you have already planted your flag, check anyway to see if someone has appeared near you. Check it out whenever you are in the meetinghouse.
- The children who collect our food baskets on Sunday complained that we donate "too many cans" so we now have a wagon to help them carry the bounty. Keep bringing those cans!

Ann Tarvin, Clerk

Peace and Social Justice Committee

Plastic Free July (and into August)

Did you know that July was “Plastic-Free July®”? (<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org>) But it doesn't have to just be July! Let's do our best to make every month plastic-free. By choosing to make small changes, you can make a big difference. Plastic Free July® is a key initiative of the Plastic Free Foundation that works toward a vision of seeing a world free of plastic waste.

Plastic Free July® focuses on single-use plastic which are disposable plastics that are typically used only once before they are thrown away (or recycled). Plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging are all single-use plastics.

The book “How to Give up Plastic,” by Will McCallum, states that the Ocean Conservancy has estimated that there is already over 165 million tons of plastic in the ocean; the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, an organization committed to creating a circular economy which is designed to eliminate waste and pollution, estimates that at the rate we are increasing production, plastic could outweigh fish in the ocean by 2050.

Here are some figures to think about:

- 120 billion plastic bottles are made by Coca-Cola every year
- 363 million tons of plastic produced every year
- 13.9 million tons of plastic entering the ocean every year
- 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down in the ocean
- 90% of seabirds have plastic in their stomachs
- 300 billion single-use coffee cups end up as landfill or litter worldwide

By choosing to refuse single-use plastics by switching to durable re-usable items, avoiding packaging and reducing waste, this stops millions of tons of plastic polluting the world each year. By reducing plastic waste, avoiding landfill and litter, we can create cleaner communities and positive impacts, and mitigate the increasing costs of waste management and recycling.

Submitted by Anita Camic
Co-clerk, Peace and Social Justice Committee

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee was given the responsibility of distributing \$10,000.00 from the general fund of Fairfield Meeting. We met in May to discuss the best distribution of these funds. We tried to follow the guidelines that we use in our normal budget distributions - to ensure we had distributions for local, national, and international.

Family Promise - \$1,000.00.

Grace Lunch Fund - \$1,250.00. This money will go to four schools in Spencer-Owen County School Corporation. Three elementary schools will receive \$250.00 each a middle school will receive \$500.00. This money is used to clear negative balances for students' lunch accounts.

Gathering Together Hospice - \$1,000.00. This hospice facility is located in Plainfield. This nonprofit organization does not charge for its services. It operates on contributions only.

Exodus International - \$2,000.00. This donation was made in honor of our beloved Sulaiman family. This organization made it possible for the Sulaimans to relocate to the United States.

RIP Medical Debt - \$1,000.00 This organization helps eliminate medical debt by purchasing it in bundles. This \$1,000.00 donation will eliminate \$100,000.00 debt for families in Indiana.

Mommy & Baby Baskets (organized by Anne Gautier) - \$500.00. Anne will use this money to purchase items needed by moms and babies that she serves in Marion County.

The remaining \$3,250.00 will be disbursed before the end of the calendar year. The members of the Outreach Committee are trying to be open to causes and needs that could benefit from your contributions. Thank you for your generous support of Fairfield Meeting.

Joan Gulley, Co-Clerk of Outreach Committee.

ONE WORLD AND ONE HUMAN RACE

Let's celebrate our common origin in the presence of God, the creator of the universe.

Let's celebrate our hope of living in peace in the presence of our peaceful creator.

Let's celebrate our desire to show others the love that God shows us.

God created one world without borders with one single human race of people and he filled each and every one with his creativity, his peace, and his love.

And, upon realizing this we can live in peace with Gods' love united as one human race in one world.

By Sondra E. Hayes, Fairfield Writing Group

August 2023 Calendar

- August 2** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- August 3** **Ministry and Counsel Committee 8-8pm**
- August 6** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- August 8** **Stewardship Committee 1:30-2:30pm**
Trustees Committee 6:30-7:30pm
- August 9** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- August 12** **Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30-10:30am**
Green Team 10:45-11:45am
- August 13** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
- August 16** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- August 17** **Finance Committee 7-8pm**
- August 20** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
Meeting for Business 7-8pm
- August 23** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**
- August 27** **Chat Room 9:30-10:30am**
Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
End of Summer Pitch-In/Picnic 11:45am-1pm
- August 30** **NA Support Group 7-8pm**

Holding in the Light List

Karen Adams (Pam Smith's Friend)	Nancy Graham
Jenny (Pam Smith's family)	Mary Lee Comer
Joseph McGowen (Treg Hopkins' friend)	Mike (Tara Stewart's friend)
Bob Montgomery (Goss's friend)	Patty Bowling
Family of Laura Mullis (Nancy Paledino's mother)	Ann Denny & daughter Betsey (Herb's mom and sister)
Tory Sprinkle (Don Adam's friend)	Tina (Mary Dooley's sister)
Dorothy and Katherine Edmundson (Lee's brother Don's family)	Mike Roland (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)
Michelle Graham's family (Lynne Durocher's friend)	Jack & Mary Lee (Mary Dooley's friends)
Liz Chrisinger (Lynne Durocher's friend)	Neighborhood Bible Church
Leah Oye (Cindy Strietelmeier's friend)	Helen Symons (JB's mother)
Louie Geiger	Deann Waltz (zoom friend)
Debbie Draper	Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)
Jim Edwards (Ashley Smith's stepdad)	Margaret Tutewiler-Cox
Mike (Stan Jones & Skip Lyford's friend)	Lauren Chinn (Larry Cordray's daughter)
Kim Brown (Jill Wiley's friend)	Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charles & Elsie Carter)
Josie Ullery (JosihHostetler's friend)	Daryl T Brown
Ron Frye	Julie Kindle
Craig Reasoner	Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)
Marty (Carol Cordray's friend)	Chris Gautier
Beth Becker (Sue Walton's friend)	

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)	Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)
Charles and Leslieann Lee	Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)
Abdul Sulaiman & Nisreen Rasheed family	Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)
Tom & Jeanne Seger (Phil Gulley's sister and husband)	David and Jennifer Hodge
Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)	Margo Lawson
Mary Denbo (Terry's Mom)	Beth Sotkiewicz

Meeting Contacts

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Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

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Membership Coordinators

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United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
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317-839-4712

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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