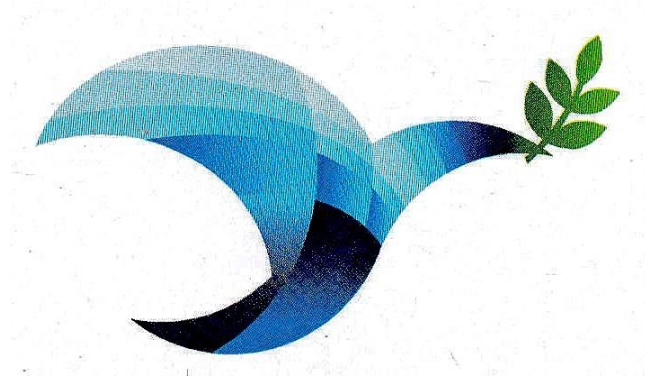


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

June 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 – June 2022

Dear Friends,

With one newsletter behind me, I feel a little more confident that we are on a positive path. A few errors were made and hopefully corrected. Please continue to alert me about changes that need to be made. I have included an updated version of birthdays and anniversaries. Please to let me know what needs repairing on that list. Your patience and input in all matters are appreciated.

M. Beth Symons

“It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside.” -Maud Hart Lovelace

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR, PHIL GULLEY

Coming Home

I remember when our son Sam came home after being in the Army for a year. He'd gone away a teenager and returned home a man, requiring a shift not only in his thinking, but also in ours. If you've ever had a child come home from college, you'll know what I mean. You know something has shifted, that the relational topography has changed, requiring all involved to feel their way along.

I've experienced this same feeling since coming home to the meetinghouse after our long absence from Covid. Our shift to Zoom worship was a blessing for those who lived at a distance or were technologically savvy, but a curse for those who lacked the needed technology or preferred to worship in person. Of course, we are grateful that vaccinations and boosters have permitted our return, but we also know we have returned as different people. Several of our new participants joined us during Covid, new leaders have emerged, and some of us, out of the habit of weekly community, have found it difficult to come home. Experts in human behavior say it takes two months to form a new habit. It stands to reason that missing in-person worship for nearly two years, minus a brief mid-summer return, got us out of the habit of community. I'll put myself in that category. The ease of Zoom participation made it especially difficult for me to return, and I'm the pastor.

Joan has a brother we haven't seen in nearly fifteen years. At one time, we were very close. While we still care about one another and exchange birthday greetings and occasional letters, it is clear the habit of absence has taken its toll on our relationship. After all these years, the prospect of coming home seems too daunting, both for Joan's brother and, in an odd way, for us too. How will the long absence be acknowledged? Will it be possible to pick up where we left off? What did we miss in one another's lives these past fifteen years? Were jobs lost, did pets die, did illnesses take a toll, did joys go unnoticed? In absence, the life we once shared has been diminished.

Can I invite you to make a new habit? If circumstances, Covid and otherwise, have kept you from coming home, would you consider returning? I know some of us are still spooked by Covid, but transmission rates remain low in Indiana. (This is a reminder that as a gift to yourself and your friends, get your new booster shot and stay healthy.) I know some of us remain away because leaving the white meetinghouse was too difficult a transition. But Quaker worship is community-centered, not building-centered. The heart of our worship is found in the gathered community, not in the structure. I've heard on the grapevine that some stay away because they don't like my theology. If so, let me say this, that agreement with my theology is not required to participate in our community. I am not God. I am not the Pope. I am an ordinary person trying as best I can to figure life out. If our conclusions differ, that is a cause for celebration, not separation.

Our nation is hitting a rough patch. It's easy to feel pessimistic, to worry we have lost our way as a democracy. It's almost as if we've forgotten how to live with one another as easily and naturally as we once did. (See above example about grown children coming home.) The answer to these communal fractures isn't to secrete ourselves away, holing up, never venturing out. The answer is to get in the habit of belonging, loving, and engaging once more. Can we become what we once were, only more? More just, more merciful, more devoted to our Quaker community and the testimonies we treasure. Couldn't we, and our world, use a little more of that these days?

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
Daffodill327@hotmail.com or 317-727-1678

Larry
Lcordray3388@gmail.com
317-372-2777

Family Promise

With many thanks and appreciation,
for the past two years, Phil has made food pantry deliveries to two individuals in Brownsburg.

This summer, June, July and August, he plans to spend more time on the farm.

We are looking for a substitute volunteer who would be willing to make weekly food pickup/deliveries. The Tuesday evening pickup from 5:30-6 PM at the Methodist Church in Danville is followed by a Brownsburg delivery 17 miles away to two houses. The total expected time is 1.5 hours and the boxes of food weigh about 35 pounds.

If anyone is interested in picking up this charitable act of delivered kindness, please let me know.

Family Promise support week begins June 19th. Hopefully, we will be back to family meals served at Almost Home. The Family Promise transition to that facility has not yet been timed perfectly, but it will be close to our host week. I'll keep everyone posted. Many thanks for the meals supplied over the years. The growth of the Family Promise program has its foundation on the churches of the community.

Thanks,
Theresa
317 509-1728

Ministry and Counsel

Our first pitch-in in over two years was held on May 1st with a great crowd and delicious food! Colin Saxton from Everance was our guest that day and brought the message on stewardship to the Meeting.

Earth Day was celebrated with Anita Camic bringing a message to the Meeting when Phil's yearly bout with bronchitis and laryngitis caused him to not be able to speak. We appreciate Anita's willingness to step forward at the last minute to participate in the ministry of the Meeting.

We continue to successfully bring our Meetings to both the people attending in-person and those joining us on Zoom. Our thanks go out to those people who are running the technology which enable us to do this. As with all things new, there are still some bumps that we encounter along the way and appreciate the patience of everyone when all isn't as smooth as we would like.

The committee decided to leave the collection plates at the back of the Meeting Room as this simplifies our Meeting since so many participants contribute through other means electronically. Money and checks may still be placed in the plates at any time before or after the Meeting.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee is so pleased to be back in-person and hopes that all stay well by being careful and getting their vaccinations so this can continue.

MONTHLY MEETING DEVOTION May, 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 April 26 edition.

Keep It Burning

Mother Teresa

Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired. How does a lamp burn? Through the continuous input of small drops of oil. If the drops of oil run out, the light of the lamp will cease. What are these drops of oil in our lamps? They are the small things of daily life: faithfulness, small words of kindness, a thought for others, our way of being silent, of looking, of speaking, and of acting. These are the true drops of love that keep your religious life burning like a living flame.

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

CLERK PLEASE—A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK

CLERK PLEASE--June 2022

This minute of appreciation will be recorded at the June Monthly Meeting:

Fairfield Friends Meeting expresses its deep appreciation for the teaching ministry of Gan and Ralph Baker. For 36 years the Bakers have faithfully and cheerfully shepherded the spiritual growth of our meeting's children. Generations of Fairfield children have been blessed by their guidance. We join with them to thank the Bakers for their dedication.

The following highlights are from the May 15 Monthly Meeting, be sure to see the final minutes for details:

- April was a quiet month for the treasury. Expenses and income were nearly equal, leaving the Reserve balance at 85% of our target, well within range of what is considered appropriate for a Rainy Day Fund. The only unusual expense was for painting.
- Ministry and Counsel sponsored the first Meeting-wide pitch-in since the Pandemic on May 1 with a great turnout. Dates for the Quakerism class on Zoom will be the last two Thursdays in September and the first three Thursdays in October. Mike Mott has agreed to greet people on Zoom, and will lead discussion amongst those people prior to Meeting for Worship. Average attendance for April was 102 in person and on Zoom and the website is getting many visits.
- Utilities have been disconnected and insurance coverage revised for the 1892 Meetinghouse, resulting in nearly four thousand dollars in rebates. In addition, the elimination of electric power is expected to result in savings of around fifteen hundred dollars in the next twelve months.
- The trustees met Bill Kirchoff and Tim Belcher of the Plainfield Planning Commission during the regular trustees meeting on 5/3/2022. They reported that due to funding issues it could be ten years before the intersection is upgraded with a roundabout, and that Plainfield is not interested in taking possession of the original 1892 Meetinghouse structure.
- Additional volunteers are needed to help weed and keep the landscaping looking its best. Some areas in back of the building need to be replanted. The terraced garden area in the back of the building is being rebuilt. After discussion, it was decided to wait until the terraced area is finished before proceeding.
- Lynne Durocher, Clerk of Finance Committee, presented the interim budget covering the period July 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022. The total approved budget was \$82,011.94. It was noted that the Outreach Committee had agreed they would receive no additional funds for the remainder of the calendar year. They have already donated to the projects they support and have sufficient funds in their checking account to handle emergency situations.
- Next Monthly Meeting will be June 19.

CARING FRIENDS

Hold in the Light List

Ron & Kaye Frye

Chris Gautier

Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)

Ruth Turner (daughter of the late Charlie and Elsie Carter)

Evan Maxwell (Tara Stewart's brother)

Joni Leverett

Margaret Tutewiler-Cox

Joe Sadler (Phil/Joan Gulleys friend)

Laura Chin (daughter of Larry Cordray)

Martha Pokorny (wife of Cliff Prentice's friend)

Olya Mangusheve (Amanda Gainey's friend)

Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mother)

Kathe Bryant (Plainfield meeting)

Rochelle Florence Colestock (Randy Horton's sister)

Margo Lawson

Daryl T. Brown

Randy Coffin

Nikki Holland (Belize Friends Ministry Director)

Julie Kindle

Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)

Beth Sotkiewicz

Wayne Benge (Larry Cordray's cousin)

Jim Edwards (Ashley Smith's stepfather)

Patty Bowling

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:

Mary Denbo (Terry's mother)

Charles & Leslieann Lee

David & Jennifer Hodge

Abdul & Misreen Rasheed family

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

Mildren Kirchhoff (Steve's mother)

Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy's Streitelmeier' parents) **Bill & Jo Maris** (Stacey Denney's parents)

Gage Boyd (Margo Lawson's grandson)

Jack Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)

June Birthdays

Sandy Hardin	June 01
Cynthia Stonerock	June 01
Andy Duran	June 03
JB Symons	June 05
M. Beth Symons	June 06
Rick Marshall	June 08
Alma Pierce	June 08
Ethan Gabbard	June 09
Tara Stewart	June 09
Hunter Warner	June 10
Lynn Adams	June 12
Robert Mork	June 12
Chad Smith	June 23
Mark Milhous	June 25
Allison Cunningham	June 25
Becky McClung	June 26
Mary Dooley	June 29
Abby Matthews	June 30

June Anniversaries

Gulley, Phil & Joan	June 02
Roe, Sue	June 03
Blacketer, Steve & Ellen	June 06
Sudduth, Jacob & Marisa	June 08
Comer, Lee & Mary Lee	June 10
Marshall, Rick & Laura Day	June 13
Heavlin, Charles & Barbara	June 14
Heald, Bob & Karen	June 23
Adams, Don & Lynn	June 25
Swift, Brian & Mary	June 26
Smith, Chad & Elise	June 28
Gainey, Sean & Amanda	June 29
Hesson, Larry & Madalyn	June 29

Incomplete Spring

Spring is never the same from one year to the next. Our winter dreams of the nature of spring are often filled with expectations that may be fulfilled by warm temperatures and just the right amount of rain. But years come that are cold into summer. This spring has been unusually beautiful. There were freezing temperatures and snow. The flowers and shrubs must be getting used to these changes; they remained undamaged.

A horrible car accident on December third left me with a painful leg injury. After a hospital stay and four months in a nursing home with intense physical therapy, I am finally home. How wonderful it is the nursing home discharged me in spring. Every day I go to the windows to look out and see the beautiful scenery of daffodils, tulips, scilla, and aromatic hyacinths. Shrubs like yellow forsythias next to red Japanese Quince and the sweet fragrance of the pink Carlsi-Viburnum. On a humid day I used to smell the Carlsi's potent unique pungency at the other side of the property. Earlier, winter aconites, snowdrops and miniature deep purple iris were in bloom. This year I must rely on fragrant memories for I am unable to go out in the uneven yard. How I long to go outside and smell the flowers, pull some weeds and plant flowers. Hopefully, I can do so next spring. What is it that awakens the drive to turn the dark earth and to insert a bulb or a tiny lifeless seed? Could it be a taste of the power of the Creator? Let us fully respond to the call of spring by gardening, not merely as a compulsive response to spring, but as a conscious act of earning grace and thereby growing closer to the Creator and all He has created.

My precious Kitty, Liesi, sensed I was not going to be there for her. She died five days before my accident. Liesi was my faithful companion for almost 13 years and had the ability to read my mind. I miss her. She is buried in the back yard behind some lilac bushes. She loved to sit back there and watch for field mice. I plan to put some violas on her grave and a little plaque with the quote: "Always loved, never forgotten."

Even as a child I always felt in awe of God's creation. As an adult I love to spend time outside and admire His wonderful gifts. Listening to the birds sing, insects buzz and watching butterflies landing on flowers is the perfect setting to meditate. Time stands still and I am at peace.

Kathe Sommer Bryant

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

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Fairfield Men's Fellowship

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Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
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Outreach Committee

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317-313-1171

Recording Clerk:

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317-3794132

Caring Friends Committee

Becky McClung
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317-690-0160

Treasurers

Mike Chenoweth
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317-445-0387

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Karen Heald
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J.B. Symons
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317-409-3945

Membership Coordinators

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317-372-1678

Nursery (under age 3)

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Bulletin

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317-839-3902

Children's Meeting (age 3-3rd grade)

Ralph & Gan Baker
baker7298@sbcglobal.net
317-831-3526

Newsletter (info due by 20th monthly)

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

Fantastix Friends (4th-8th grade)

Tara Stewart
Tara_m_stewart@hotmail.com
317-627-8964

United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
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317-839-4712

Young Friends (9th grade-college)

Jimmy McClung
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765-346-8848

June 2022 Calendar

- June 1** First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month
NA Support Group 7pm
- June 2** Ministry and Counsel Committee 7 pm
- June 5** Meeting for Worship 10:30am
- June 8** NA Support Group 7 pm
- June 11** Peace and Social Justice Committee 9:30 am
- June 12** Meeting for Worship 10:30 am
Writing Group 1:00 pm
- June 14** Flag Day
- June 15** NA Support Group 7 pm
- June 16** Finance Committee 7 pm
- June 19** Juneteenth
Father's Day
Meeting for Worship 10:30 am
Meeting for Business 7pm
- June 20** Juneteenth (substitute)
- June 21** Stewardship Committee 2:30 pm
- June 22** NA Support Group 7pm
- June 26** Meeting for Worship 10:30am
- June 27** Fairfield USFW 11am
- June 29** NA Support Group 7pm

