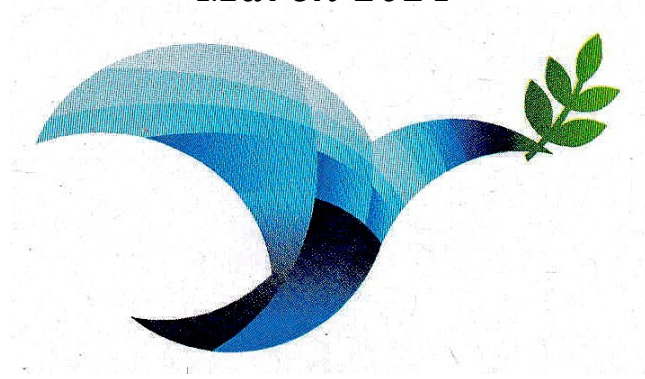


THE FAIRFIELD FRIEND

March 2024



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 –March 2024

Thoughts From the Pastor, Phil Gulley

March

Garrison Keillor once said God created March to let people who don't drink know what a hangover feels like. He grew up in Minnesota, where spring arrives a month or so after it has blessed Indiana, so February is our "hangover" month. March is a foretaste of spring, the heavy coats are put away, the spring windbreakers brought out, the crocuses bloom in the Vornholt's yard, and the announcement of Little League enrollment appears on the park sign. It's all downhill from here, folks. We've survived another Indiana winter. Before long, the spring rains will wash the salty brine from the roads, and it will be motorcycle season once more.

Though I've never been there, I've been told Santa Barbara, California has the best year-round climate of any city in the United States, one monotonous sunny day after another, with little variance in temperature. If you're thinking of moving there, you should be aware it has a high cost of living, is vulnerable to wildfires, has tar deposits on its beaches, and a lack of freshwater sometimes necessitating water rationing. I'm proud to say that Danville is affordable, hasn't had a wildfire in living memory, tar is confined to the streets, and water is abundant, often collecting in my basement, free of charge.

There's a Quaker meeting in Santa Barbara, but it's unprogrammed and functions without a pastor. Everyone likes to think they're indispensable, so it annoys me that the Quakers in Santa Barbara seem to be doing just fine without a pastor. I visited their website and they all seemed perfectly happy. I had hoped they would appear stressed out and anxious, wondering what to do. Instead, they appear confident, tanned, and cheerful, which I attribute to the lack of difficulty in their lives. Say what you will about winter, at least it prepares us for life's misfortunes. I don't know anyone in Santa Barbara, but I suspect their confidence is all a show, that they would fold at the first sign of trouble.

I don't like to lord my knowledge of the Bible over others, but it seems appropriate that the Bible is on the side of Hoosiers, not Californians. Romans 5:3 reminds us "that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Anyone who has ever spent the winter in Indiana knows all about suffering. (This seems like a fitting time to mention that some Quakers spend the winter in Florida, contrary to God's plan for their lives, not that I'm judging them.)

I haven't yet figured out why suffering produces perseverance, I only know that it's true. I wish we could learn from comfort and ease, but life never seems to work that way. The closest analogy I have is kite-flying. It is the taut string that permits the kite to rise. As soon as the string relaxes, the kite crashes to the ground. Of course, it's profoundly difficult, when we are experiencing pain, loss, and hardship, to remember that trouble helps us grow. The novelist Chuck Palahniuk wrote, "It's so hard to forget pain, but it's even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace."

We have survived another Indiana winter and have the scars to show for it. I do hope you enjoy the peace of spring, which is only possible having known the hostile cold.

Family Promise

March 24th through the 30th is our pledge week for Family Promise. One week out of every three months Fairfield Friends provides the evening meals for the Almost Home shelter house. In addition, food items are gathered to stock the pantry at the Plainfield Resource Center.

Each quarter the families in the shelter strengthen their skills and move into their own homes. However, new families in distress move into the shelter and the training process continues. Watching mothers arrive at their lowest point of struggle and then later graduate into their own homes is like watching people bloom.

Fairfield has become one spoke in the wheel of progress, and a valuable position we hold. Many thanks to the volunteers who help big wheels, keep on spinning.

Theresa Minton

Peace and Social Justice *Ramadan Mubarak*

If you have ever met someone of the Islamic faith, a Muslim, you may have heard about their Ramadan observance. This holy month of fasting is considered one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and you can learn more from this [Islamic Society of North America article](#). The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar calendar, like many other calendars developed before the advent of the Gregorian solar calendar (the latter a result of the Council of Nicaea aligning Easter with the Spring Equinox). This year Ramadan will occur upon this visual confirmation of the crescent moon, scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024 and will end on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 with Eid al Fitr (festival of breaking the fast) scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

There is a CNN article from Saeed Ahmed, "[A Ramadan Etiquette Guide for Non-Muslims](#)" that is a nice guide on how to be more welcoming of our Muslim friends and family. Take note, if invited to an Iftar please take the opportunity to go, it is the daily breaking of the fast after sundown and a lovely way for us to be in community. If you can, bring a box of dates for your host; fasts are most often broken by eating dates in a reflection of how fasts were broken as described in the Quran. If you know someone is observing Ramadan, please offer the greeting, "Ramadan Mubarak," (meaning Happy Ramadan).

My own family came to Pennsylvania as the result of Quaker welcome to German and Swiss Anabaptists who were facing persecution because of their religious beliefs. Likewise, the Islamic Society of North America headquarters ended up in Plainfield, Indiana, in-part, due to the welcome of Friends here. Take time to reflect on Ramadan and think about how we as Friends can continue that welcome.

- Josih Hostetler

Chords of Love Delivery on January 27, 2024

After several attempts in early January that were thwarted by bad weather, we were finally able to make a Chords of Love delivery on January 27, 2024.

On that date, Steve and Nita Kirchhoff along with Cindy Hurst from the Outreach Committee delivered two carloads of items to the Brownsburg location of Chords of Love.

We were able to deliver the following items: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, cans of soup and vegetables as well as coffee, tea, fruit juices and vegetable oil.

As always, Chords of Love was very appreciative and grateful for all these items so they could contribute these needed products to the disabled, low-income seniors and patients battling chronic or terminal illnesses. Thanks to all Fairfield members who made donations to this worthy cause.



A YOUTH CAMP
OPEN TO ALL

**CHARISM
CAMP:
EXPLORING
YOUR GIFTS**

JUNE 28-30
2024

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Questions ?
racheldollomahoney@gmail.com
tom.s@westernyearlymeeting.org



**QUAKER
KNOLL**

Wilmington, Ohio

Ministry and Counsel March 2024

The evaluation forms for pastor and congregation are available on the table in the entrance and they were sent via our e-mail distribution. They are **due back by March 3** so that M&C can get a feel for the current interests and needs of our group. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO REPLY.** The better we understand the meeting as a whole, the better we can serve it. If you need a copy e-mailed to you individually, please contact me directly at the e-mail address below.

Easter schedule: Easter falls on a fifth Sunday this year so we will hold unprogrammed Meeting for Worship at 9:00 and the regular programmed Meeting for Worship at 10:30. There will be no chat room that day.

Ann Tarvin, Clerk
tarvedmun@yahoo.com

March Birthdays

Walter Madden-Wamer	March 04
Amanda Gainey	March 05
Robby Stevens	March 09
Larry Chamness	March 12
Dale Gladden	March 13
Barbara Heavlin	March 16
Michael Cunningham	March 17
April Stevens	March 17
Anita Camic	March 18
Patti Swift	March 18
Debbie Draper	March 21
Don Adams	March 23
Carolyn Slaughter	March 24
Dara Smith	March 25
Carol Cordray	March 27
Matt Hamm	March 29
Chad Duran	March 30
Ellen Blacketer	March 31

March Anniversaries

Larry and Carol Cordray March 21

Certainly I don't have everyone's birthday and anniversary. If you haven't shared yours with me, please e-mail the dates to me at mbethsymons@aol.com. Thanks so much. mBeth

March 2024 Calendar

March 03	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
March 05	Trustees Committee 6:30-7:30pm
March 06	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 07	Ministry and Counsel Committee. 7-9:00pm
March 09	Peace and Social Justice Committee. 9:30-10:30am
March 10	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Book Club Discussion 12-2:00pm
March 12	Stewardship Committee 1:30-2:30pm
March 13	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 14	Finance Committee 7-8:00pm
March 17	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am Meeting for Business 12-1:00pm
March 20	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 24	Chat Room 9:30-10:30am Meeting for Worship 10:30-11:30am
March 25	USFW 11am-12pm
March 27	NA Support Group 7-8:00pm
March 31	Easter Sunday Unprogrammed Meeting 9:00 No Chat Room Meeting for Worship. 10:30-11:30am

Holding in the Light List

Mark Milhous
Patti Siemantel
Peggy Cantrel (Linda Mann's sister)
Jerry & Wilma Mowrey (Cordray's friends)
Hisham Awartani
Mary Howell (Cordray's friend)
Sondra Hayes-Hartman

Michelle Taunton (Sue Walton's colleague)
Don Hanlin (Hugh's brother)
Mike Jones (Ellen Blacketer's brother-in-law)
Linda Vankirk (Bill & Pam Smith's friend)
Tom Farrington's family
Ramallah Friends School
WilmaKapcoe (Exercise mentor at Plainfield)

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:

Jack and Mary Lou (Mary Dooley's friends)
Tom & Jeanne Sagar (Phil Gulley's sister and husband)
Alan & Helen Heuss (Cindy Streitmeier's parents)
Margie Wollitz (Mary's twin sister)
Carol Gabbard (Jeff's mother)
Mary Denbo (Terry's mom)
Beth Sotkiewicz
Nancy Graham
Ron Frye
Patty Bowling
Jack & Marilyn Apple (Joan Gulley's brother)
Cam & Dolores "June" Smith (Bill's parents)
Jenny & her mother Jeannie (Pam Smith's friends)
Leah Oye (Cindy Strietelmieir's friend)

Ann Denny and daughter Betsey (Herb's mom and sister)
Helen Symons (JB's mom)
Mirra LaGasse (Pam Smith's great-niece)
Bob Church (Rosemary's husband)
Margaret Tutewiler-Cox
Daryl T. Brown
Julie Kindle
Mary Lee Comer
Brenda Sellers (Linze Southwick's mom)
Jim & Pat Wilson
Louis Geiger
Deann Waltz (zoom friend)
Liz Chrisinger (Lynne Durocher's friend)
Mike Roland (friend of Bill & Pam Smith)

Meeting Contacts

Pastor

Phil Gulley
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Presiding Clerk of the Meeting

Randy Horton
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Bulletin

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United Society of Friends Women

Sarah Lookabill
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317-431-6342

Fairfield Men's Fellowship

Ralph Baker
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317-831-3526

Outreach Committee

Joan Gulley
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317-709-8376

Becky Horton
beckyhorton@hotmail.com
317-501-9406

Pianists: Lee Edmundson, Joan Gulley, Cindy Strietelmeier

Choir Director

Amanda Gainey
acvidal5@gmail.com
317-332-2053

Membership Coordinators

Larry & Carol Cordray
daffodil327@hotmail.com
317-727-2777 317-727-1678

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

Laura Essex
lauralou85@yahoo.com
317-871-4717

Nursery (under age 3)

Sue Roe
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Laura Essex
Lauralou85@yahoo.com
317-871-4717

Newsletter

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

To Be Added to the Email List

Tom Farrington
MessageToFairfield@att.net
317-839-3902

Caring Friends Committee

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 or 317-727-1678 Larry Lcordray3388@gmail.com 317-372-2777